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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Brain-damaged woman: The parents of a brain-damaged Tampa, Fla., woman at the center of a right-to-die case said Tuesday that recent statements by Pope John Paul II are proof that their daughter would choose to live in her current condition.

Based on the pope's stated position that people in vegetative states still have the right to nutrition and health care, an attorney for Bob and Mary Schindler filed papers asking a judge to end efforts by Terri Schiavo's husband to end her life.

McDonald's game scam: A Jacksonville, Fla., appeals court has thrown out the convictions of four men found guilty in a multi-million-dollar scheme to cash in on stolen winning tickets in McDonald's promotional games such as "Monopoly" and "Who Wants to be a Millionaire."

A three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found "a complete failure of proof" on the conspiracy charge and concluded the men were convicted of a conspiracy that they were not charged with.

Economic recovery: Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said Wednesday that President Bush's three rounds of tax cuts prevented a severe recession and helped spark the current economic recovery.

But he warned that Congress must pay attention to the long-term consequences of its spending and tax decisions in order to keep rising budget deficits from harming the country's growth potential.

Peterson murder trial: Prosecutors in Scott Peterson's murder trial are again portraying the former fertilizer salesman as a lying phlegander who didn't act the part of a grieving husband after his pregnant wife, Laci, vanished.

Modesto police Detective Richard House testified Tuesday in Redwood City, Calif., that Peterson rented a private mailbox on Dec. 23, 2002, a day before he reported Laci missing. On Jan. 9, 2003, House said, Peterson received a letter to the mailbox from his mistress, Amber Frey.

Prosecutors allege the affair was the motive for the slaying.

Escaped tiger shooting: The Loxahatchee, Fla., agency responsible for fatally shooting an escaped 600-pound tiger has received at least five death threats and is urging some employees to wear street clothes instead of uniforms.



Asia flooding: Women board a small boat as others waded through a flooded street near Gauhati, India, on Wednesday. Officials in India's remote northeast put the army on alert after flood waters reached the outer suburbs of Gauhati. Some 535 people have been killed in South Asia by floods, electrocution and waterborne diseases since the rains began.

The directive Tuesday came a week after an officer with the state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shot Bobo the tiger when the big cat lunged at him during a hunt that lasted 26 hours.

The shooting set off a public outcry, including criticism from the tiger's owner, former Tarzan actor Steve Sipek.

World

Fiji coup trial: A group of 21 Fiji army troops were convicted Wednesday for their parts in a mutiny in 2000 that left eight soldiers dead in gunbattles at the nation's main military base.

The mutineers aimed to kill the armed forces chief, Commodore Frank Bainimarama, and bring down the South Pacific nation's interim government in the aftermath of a nationalist coup that toppled the country's first ethnic Indian-led government.

Bainimarama was warned of the impending mutiny and fled from the base on the outskirts of the capital, Suva, as the plotters attacked his headquarters.

Seminary porn scandal: A special Vatican inspector began his inquiry Wednesday into the discovery of a vast cache of child pornography at a Vienna, Austria, seminary where candidates for the priesthood photographed themselves kissing and fondling each other.

Austrian Bishop Klaus Kueng was appointed Tuesday as Pope John Paul II's "apostolic visitor" to deal with a scandal that has deeply embarrassed the Roman Catholic Church. Kueng said he had already spoken with Kurt Krenn, the embattled churchman in charge of the seminary.

Kueng will report his findings directly to the pope.

Same-sex divorce: A lesbian couple is seeking what one of their lawyers believes is Canada's first same-sex divorce, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The petition, filed in the Superior Court of Justice last month, will add a new facet to the contentious legal debate over same-sex marriage. The Supreme Court of Canada is holding hearings on the legality of same-sex marriages in the fall.

Ukrainian mine fire: Emergency workers labored to extinguish a fire deep in a Ukrainian mine Wednesday, two days after an explosion killed 31 and left five missing. Nearby, distraught relatives clustered at the mine's entrance.

A massive methane and coal dust blast sparked the blaze Monday evening in Rodinskoye as 48 miners were changing shifts at a coal mine 3,180 feet below the surface. Twelve escaped uninjured.

Stories and photos from wire services

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Parking now to come with extra cost

As of Sept. 1, proof-of-space certificates required of off-base SOFA personnel

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — U.S. servicemen who live outside base gates in mainland Japan and Okinawa soon will be coughing up a little more money to register their vehicles.

On Tuesday, the U.S. military agreed to comply with a Japanese law requiring all car owners to prove they have assigned parking, said Air Force Col. Victor Warzinski, a U.S. Forces Japan spokesman.

Beginning Sept. 1, all Status of Forces Agreement personnel residing off-base must produce certificates showing they have an exclusive space and pay a one-time fee of about \$25 at the time of registration.

A joint U.S.-Japanese committee that addresses issues related to the alliance struck an initial deal Tuesday, Warzinski said. Discussions will continue on other matters associated with the parking dilemma, including whether the law also applies to on-base residents.

"Our contention is it does not," Warzinski said. "We have parking places that we can prove. There's no reason to obtain certification."

The 1962 law is designed to ensure that vehicle owners don't park on the streets and to alleviate congested roadways. Under its provisions, people must file a certificate verifying an exclusive parking space at the time of vehicle registration. The application costs \$25 to \$30, Warzinski said, depending on the rate set by each prefecture.

For six years, the two sides have wrangled over the issue, with the U.S. military arguing it should be exempt under the SOFA. The Japanese government maintains the law applies to all SOFA-status personnel.

Of the 58,000 private vehicles owned by U.S. military personnel and their families in Japan, just 2,300 have the parking certificate, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. Most are in the Sasebo area.

A Ministry of Foreign Affairs official said

Wednesday that all SOFA members with primary parking spaces off-base would be required to obtain the proper documentation starting Sept. 1. Those who registered before that but change addresses also would have to pick up the certificates.

U.S. military bases in Japan must implement the new policy through their individual pass and identification and vehicle registration offices, Warzinski said. Officials hope to have procedures for obtaining the certificates in place by Sept. 1.

He was unclear whether documentation of a parking space provided by base officials would be sufficient for local authorities to issue a certificate.

"Each base and installation has different circumstances," Warzinski said. "Some might step off the base and see that the prefecture doesn't even require a certificate."

"We'll continue to let folks know. We're responsible for keeping the commands informed of how the talks are progressing."

Enforcement likely would fall to Japanese authorities, he said, and possible penal-

ties for failing to comply have not been determined.

The Japanese government hopes to resolve the dispute involving on-base vehicle owners by the end of July, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs official added.

"For those who have parking space within U.S. military bases or areas, we will continue to discuss the matter and to agree as soon as possible," she said.

Warzinski offered no deadline for settling on their previous off-base status through a desire for resolution.

"We always intended to reach some satisfactory resolution on this issue," he said.

"We asked for translation and interpretation of the law to try to figure out what it stated. Do we have certain rights and privileges under SOFA?"

"We've committed to try to resolve this ... in a rather quick manner. We still have a way to go, but this is progress."

Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.

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CA shares secrets with

base chefs at Atsugi

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

During a two-week visit to Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, chefs and instructors from the famed Culinary Institute of America volunteered to help spice up the fare at base restaurants.

"So that the people who live on base can get a little more interest in their food," said Lynne Gigliotti, a lecturing instructor from the institute, who teaches skills development — using a knife, creating stocks and other basics.

The visit is sponsored by Morale, Welfare and Recreation and has been going on at Atsugi for years, said Paul Savarese, clubs coordinator. Yokosuka Naval Base adopted it last year and is hosting a similar visit this week.

Gigliotti and three other chefs along with a service manager donated their vacation time to come to Japan.

They prepared themed dishes during the week, allowing base cooks to learn new techniques.

"All of our cooks from all of the clubs are learning from them," Savarese said.

At the same time, the visiting service manager — similar to a maitre d' — is teaching servers hospitality.



Chefs Elizabeth Briggs, left, and Prem Kuma from the Culinary Institute of America prepare a Vietnamese dish at the Atsugi Naval Air Facility Officers Club on Wednesday.

"We're focusing on both ends," Savarese said.

During the visit, the chefs taught using special-themed meals, which then were served at the Officers Club. They prepared a Southern and a Southeast Asian lunch early in the week, and held a cooking demonstration for the community Thursday.

At Yokosuka, the chefs prepared a French gourmet and an Asian Fusion lunch along with a community demo.

The Southern lunch was new to some base employees.

"They now know how to make great fried chicken," Gigliotti said.

The chefs also taught basic food preparation techniques and fundamentals such as soups, stocks and sauces.

A pastry chef taught pastry- and bread-making and the service manager provided "rigorous training" for servers, Gigliotti said.

She taught employees how to build dishes upon each other, using a simple dish such as a stock for something else, for example.

"The whole process of making a complex dish," she said. "It all kind of builds on itself."

Gigliotti is planning a Mediterranean meal for a special party on Friday for the base commander. The visit then tops off Saturday with a Polynesian lunch, followed by a free performance by a 17-person Polynesian band from Hawaii on the O Club patio.

Gigliotti said the visiting chefs enjoy helping the military and get-



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW SCHWARZ, Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Kazuko Kobayashi, an employee at the Atsugi Naval Air Facility Officers Club, carves a watermelon while Lynne Gigliotti, an instructor from the Culinary Institute of America, prepares an appetizer Wednesday.

ting a chance to see and taste new foods and dishes while here in Japan. They visited the Tsukiji fish market and marveled at impressively perfect Japanese produce.

"One of the things that surprised me here in Japan is the quality of the produce," Gigliotti said. "It's just picture-perfect."

She noted Japan's famous \$150 melons.

The chefs preordered ingredi-

ents for the dishes they were preparing and surprised Japanese club employees with one item: peaches at about \$5 a pop.

"They were just flabbergasted that we're using peaches," she said.

Savarese said he hopes the visit taught his cooks new ideas, how to be more efficient and provided them a new confidence, "to hopefully raise the bar a bit."

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Clarification

A story in the July 15 edition about the Navy's night-landing practice at Iwo Jima mistakenly implied that in the World War II battle for Iwo Jima, Japanese soldiers fought on the beaches. The story also mistakenly implied that the fighting between U.S. and Japanese troops ended after the raising of the American flag by U.S. Marines.

Correction

A story in Wednesday's editions on involuntary reclassifications for some soldiers listed a wrong date. The Air Force needs to cut 22,000 airmen by Sept. 30, 2005.

Elite forces taking higher-paying jobs

BY PAULINE JELINEK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just when the U.S. military needs them most, senior Green Berets, Navy SEALs and other elite forces are leaving for higher-paying jobs.

After getting years of training and experience in the military, they leave for other government jobs or for what defense officials said Tuesday has been an explosion in outside contractor work.

"What makes them so valuable to us makes them highly marketable on the outside," said Chief Master Sgt. Robert V. Martens Jr., senior adviser at the U.S. Special Operations Command, which also oversees equipping and training elite Army Rangers and Air Force special operations commands.

Better salaries, retirement benefits and educational opportunities are among incentives that might help stem the problem, defense officials said as they met with lawmakers to discuss ways to keep forces who have become so crucial to the war on terror.

A soldier, sailor or airman gets \$60,000 per year at 18 years of service — a figure that includes housing allowance and some types of special duty pay. Troops who go up to civilian work could make up to \$200,000 a year, one official has said.

The military command that oversees the covert forces "is the nation's special best weapon in the global war on terror," said Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J. Saxton opened Tuesday's session before his House Armed Services Committee terrorism subcommittee, saying he fears the mil-

itary is losing such troops faster than they can be replaced for a counter-terror war that "has no foreseeable end point."

Officials from the command based in Tampa, Fla., didn't give specific numbers, but said the Army Navy and Air Force are all seeing an increasing trend in which senior people are retiring at their 20-year mark, though they could remain on active duty for several more years.

Force Master Chief Cleveland Breining, senior adviser at the Naval Special Warfare Command, said there has been a decline in people staying beyond the 10- to 14-year mark since the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"We are not looking to retain every single person for their 30-year tenure, but we are looking to retain a key experience base to lead our younger, less experienced troops out into the field into combat," Martens said.

It can take four years just to train a special operations soldier and another five years of field experience before he or she is top-notch.

Martens said troops are taking "the skills that we have trained them with" and starting second careers in the civilian sector or moving into other government agencies.

The special operations command has been working with the senior staff of the office of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld to identify incentives to keep senior people, Martens said. Worse retention problems, he said, have not averted.

The work of the military's special operations forces has greatly expanded in recent years. Special operations forces played a crucial part in helping kill Afghan forces topple the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in 2001 and have figured prominently in the war in Iraq.

Trekking turtles



MARK RANNIN/Stars and Stripes

Austin Goff, 12, from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, releases a sea turtle back into the ocean Tuesday at Torii Beach on the Army's Torii Station. About 70 baby sea turtles started their journey to California.

Misawa movers scramble for pet-sitters

Animal lodging vacancies fill up during busy change-of-location season

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — There's no vacancy for transient pets at this northern Japan base.

Military members and civilians moving into or out of Misawa and needing to stay in temporary lodging may find there's no place to board the family dog or cat.

A busy permanent-change-of-station season, combined with dwindling availability of so-called pet suites on base, is forcing some pet owners to pay a premium for kennel space in town, find a pet-sitter or ask their sponsor for help.

Lodging officials estimate they've been unable to accommodate from 75 to 100 pet owners since the PCS season began in April, and the pet lodges are booked through September. "I tell them sorry, I can't help them — I don't have the space," said Barbi Willis, lodging manager for the 35th Services Squadron, "and I can't let you keep your Great Dane upstairs" in the Misawa Inn.

The Air Force prohibits housing pets in the service's lodging facilities.

Misawa has a waiver for a cluster of two- and four-bedroom, 1940s-era homes, designated as pet suites, since they are to be razed by 2007.

Those homes gradually are being boarded

up and utilities shut off as demolition approaches, Willis said.

"When I got here, we had 17. Now there are 15," she said, noting that two more are to be shuttered by the end of July.

During the past year alone, the pet suites generated 4,189 "bed nights," representing the number of times guests and pet stayed in one of the houses.

The problem is compounded by the lack of a kennel or pet-boarding facility on base.

Willis said, noting that at one point a base kennel was "in the works," and she's not sure why the plan was scrapped.

The animal shelter Pets Are Worth Saving, or PAWS, is for stray and abandoned pets. PAWS is boarding animals for billing this summer but only on a space-available basis, said PAWS co-president Sabrina Leuthold. PAWS charged \$15 a night for boarding but doesn't accept reservations.

The alternatives are few and expensive: Off-base kennels charge about 4,000 yen (about \$36) per pet per night, said Staff Sgt. Curtis Hill. Misawa lodging operations manager. The cost is more for larger animals and space is limited.

Lodging officials keep a list of pet-sitters who will wait animals in their home; they did not know what they typically charged.

Misawa's housing office recommends that families moving to Misawa consider not bring-

ing pets, letting people know that they may be required to seek an off-base pet boarding facility in temporary lodging.

But often the work of finding incoming personnel, Willis said, adding that sometimes families with pets show up at the Misawa Inn and say they don't have a sponsor — a person usually from one's unit or work organization designated to help a new family get settled.

"Sponsorship needs a lot of work," she said. Maj. Donald Bell, Misawa's lodging superintendent, said that if the pet suites are booked and there's no kennel space off base, it's up to the sponsor to find someone to keep the family's pet until they move into permanent housing.

"Plan your move," he added. Guests in the pet suites also are urged to go to the housing office as soon as they arrive at Misawa to speed up the wait time for on-base housing.

"Be courteous to other folks who might be needing a pet suite," Hill said.

Service members are authorized up to 30 days in temporary lodging, while civilians can stay up to 90 days.

Lodging officials said they aren't sure where PCSing pets will board after the pet suites are torn down in 2007. But they'll be off the hook then, no longer involved in looking for homes for people with pets.

"When it goes away, it's gone," Hill said.

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Misawa raises \$24,000

Sailors and Marines at Misawa Air Base, Japan, raised more than \$24,000 in this year's annual Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund Drive, breaking a Navy Misawa record and marking a 25 percent increase over last year's total, according to Navy officials.

The drive ran from March through June.

Funds were raised through raffles, basketball and golf tournaments, cake and food auctions and bingo games. Sailors spread information through word of mouth and posted fliers around base.

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is a private nonprofit charitable organization. In partnership with the Navy and Marine Corps, it aims to provide financial, educational and other assistance to U.S. Navy and Marine Corps servicemembers, eligible family members and survivors when in need.

Misawa direct dialing available

Off-base Misawa residents no longer must go through the operator when calling

the base. A new "direct-in" dialing service is available if calling from within Japan to Misawa.

From the Misawa area, to call on-base DSN numbers with 22 prefixes (residential), dial 63 and then the number. For DSN numbers with a 226 prefix (businesses), dial 64, then the number.

If calling from outside the Misawa area, dial the area code. Dial 0176-63, then the number, to call residence numbers; dial 0176-64, then the number, to call businesses.

Call DSN 226-2900 for more information.

SLES Bus rider registration

The Student Transportation Office of Shirley Lunden Elementary School at Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, is accepting registration papers and taking photos for bus riders for the 2004-05 school year. Elementary, middle and high school students, both new and returning, can turn in their papers and have photos taken Wednesdays and Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. only.

Contact Ken French at DSN

263-4151/4555 to schedule an appointment.

Cope Thunder memorial

While participating in Cooperative Cope Thunder 04, Japanese Air Self-Defense Force servicemen recognized their fallen American and Canadian counterparts in a ceremony last week at Elmendorf Air Base, Alaska.

The JASDF airmen remembered the crew of 22 Americans and two Canadians who flew the Yulka 27, which crashed during an Airborne Warning and Control System exercise in September 1995.

During the ceremony, the JASDF's E-767 AWACS crew placed a wreath on the international memorial in remembrance of the crew at Elmendorf.

The Yulka 27 crew, assigned to the 962nd Airborne Warning and Control Squadron, was involved in an AWACS training mission when the incident occurred. The plane was unable to complete an emergency landing when some Canada geese were sucked into the engine shortly after take-off.

CCT 04 is a two-week exercise involving the air forces of several nations worldwide, including Japan, to train the pilots and ground forces under simulated wartime conditions.

Michelle Branch in Guam

Singer Michelle Branch will perform at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the University of Guam Field House, the Pacific Daily News reported.

Ticket prices are \$25 for general admission and \$50 for VIP seating, the paper reported. Branch is staging two concerts in Guam before arriving on Guam. She's slated to appear at the Waikiki Shell in Hawaii on July 29.

The 21-year-old Grammy Award winner is perhaps best known for her collaborations with Sheryl Crow and Carlos Santana.

Branch's 2001 album "The Spirit Room" produced such hits as "Goodbye to You," "Everywhere" and "All You Wanted" and spent 32 weeks on Billboard's Top 100 Albums chart. Her latest single is "Til I Get Over You."

From staff reports

Iraq militants threaten to release six hostages

American death toll reaches 900

By RAVI NESSMAN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A militant group said Wednesday that it had taken six more hostages — three Indians, two Kenyans and an Egyptian — and would head them off if their countries did not immediately announce the withdrawal of their citizens from Iraq.

The U.S. death toll since the start of the war rose to 900 when a roadside bomb killed a soldier.

The seizure of the hostages came a day after a Filipino truck driver was released in exchange for Manila's withdrawal of its 51-member troop contingent — a move criticized by Washington and other allies as encouraging more abductions.

Those fears seemed to be realized with the new kidnappings.

In a statement given to The Associated Press, the group, calling itself "The Holders of the Black Banners," said it had abducted the six truckers and would head them off every 72 hours starting at 8 p.m. Wednesday if their nations did not pull out of Iraq and the company they work for would close its branch here.

"We have warned all the countries, companies, businessmen and truck drivers that those who deal with American cowboy occupiers will be targeted by the fires of the Mujahideen," the statement said. "Here you are once again transporting goods, weapons and military equipment that backs the U.S. Army."

None of the countries are part of the 160,000-man coalition force in Iraq; however, Interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi appealed last week to end troops and drop to the coalition and send troops.

More than 60 Iraqis have been taken hostage in Iraq in recent months.

Also on Wednesday, U.S. allies Poland, Japan and Bulgaria rejected threats of new attacks by militants if they don't pull their troops out of Iraq.

In violence Wednesday, a car bomb went off in eastern Baghdad, killing four people, witnesses said.

New clashes between U.S. forces and insurgents in a residential area near the city of Ramadi killed five Iraqis and wounded 17 others, said Dr. Mohammed Ali of Ramadi emergency hospital. Some of the casualties occurred when a U.S. military helicopter attacked a building in the area near Ramadi, 70 miles west of Baghdad.

The U.S. death toll as counted by The Associated Press reached 900 with the report by Maj. Neal O'Brien of the 1st Infantry Division, who said the bomb killed the American soldier shortly after midnight during a patrol in a Bradley fighting vehicle in Dulayyah, 45 miles north of Baghdad.

On Tuesday, the military said two U.S. Marines and two U.S. soldiers were killed in Anbar Province, a Sunni-dominated area west of Baghdad. The Marines were killed in separate incidents while conducting "security operations"; one soldier was killed Monday, and a second died Monday of wounds.

Counts of the number of U.S. service members killed in Iraq vary, with some already exceeding the 900 figure. The Pentagon's latest casualty update, released Tuesday before the latest deaths, put the death toll at 893 servicemen, plus two civilian Defense Department employees.

The number of U.S. casualties has dropped considerably from its high point in April, when 135 troops were killed during the war's first deaths, but the decline since the end of major hostilities



An elder is escorted by a man holding a weapon as he walks near a charged vehicle after a car bomb went off Wednesday in eastern Baghdad. Witnesses said four people were killed.

May 1, 2003. The drop in casualties to pre-April levels followed a Marine pullout from the city of Fallujah — the scene of heavy fighting — and a series of informal cease fires with Shiite militants who had fought U.S. forces in Baghdad and across central and southern Iraq.

But violent attacks have continued to rise against Iraqi officials and police, whom insurgents view as collaborators with U.S. forces.

A member of Baghdad's provincial council, Saheeb al-Ka'abi, was injured in an assassination attempt, and was in a stable condition, according to an official at Tin al-Nadif Hospital, where al-Ka'abi was taken.

A roadside bomb hit an Iraqi police patrol early Wednesday in the Gharnata district of Kirkuk in the country's north, killing one police officer and injuring another, said police official Salhat Kadri.

Guard unit may stay past two-year limit

By MARK MAZZETTI
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — In yet another sign of the strains on the U.S. military in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and the Iraq war, the Pentagon for the first time is considering extending the mobilization of National Guard soldiers who soon will hit the federal limit of 24 months of active service, defense officials said Tuesday.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoemaker was asked about the issue during a Wednesday House Armed Services Committee hearing on Army transformation.

Extending the Guard members' tours "is a decision in progress," that will ultimately need approval from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Schoemaker told the questioner, Arkansas Democrat Vic Snyder.

Pressed again by Snyder, Schoemaker quietly consulted with his deputy chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, and then reiterated, "I'm not aware that a decision has been made."

In a Wednesday news conference, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said he has no plans to extend the deployments, but didn't shut the door to the possibility.

"No, we don't plan at the moment to extend people beyond 24 months," Rumsfeld said. "But one should never say never ... The facts on the ground will determine what."

Initially, the decision would affect about 450 soldiers of the Arkansas National Guard who are in Iraq with the 38th Brigade Combat Team. The soldiers, mobilized after Sept. 11 and first sent to the Sinai Peninsula on a peacekeeping rotation, are the first of the National Guard units to approach the 24-month limit that the Pentagon established days after the terrorist attacks in the United States.

Ultimately, however, waiving the limit in this case might lead to extended deployments for thousands of other reservists and National Guard members in Iraq and Afghanistan, and provide ammunition for critics in Congress who are pushing the Bush administration to increase the size of the military.

Stars and Stripes reporter Lisa Burgess contributed to this report from the Pentagon.

Study: Army Reserve soldiers encounter pay problems

By STEVE GOLDSTEIN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Ninety-five percent of soldiers at eight Army Reserve units sent to Iraq and other Middle East zones experienced significant problems getting pay, creating stress and concern about the financial well-being of their families back home.

The soldiers were overpaid or underpaid or paid late, according to a study by the Government Accountability Office, and the problems in some instances persisted for more than a year.

Soldiers involved in the investigation said the pay issues hurt morale and the Army Reserve's rate of retention.

"You never want to mess with a soldier's money. That's a cardinal rule," said Army Capt. Orlando Amaro. "When a soldier has financial issues, the morale just goes through the floor."

Amaro was a platoon leader for the 443rd Military Police Company from Owings Mills, Md., when the unit was in Baghdad last May through December 2003. Virtually all of the 121 soldiers in his company had pay problems.

"Most of the problems stemmed from soldiers not getting additional allotments, such as family separation pay and combat-zone allotments," said Amaro, a native

GAO faults 'complex' Pentagon pay process, lack of training for troops handling records

Philadelphia who is an officer in the Washington, D.C., police department.

Pay issues were so pressing, Amaro said in an interview, that he and another officer with a background in finances flew to Kuwait roughly every two weeks for five months to try to resolve these problems and prevent new mistakes from occurring.

The two officers flew to Kuwait on space-available flights but then had to rent a car with their own money to drive to the finance office.

Amaro and other soldiers, GAO investigators and Pentagon officials were scheduled to appear Monday at a hearing before a panel of the House Committee on Government Reform. The GAO study follows an examination of Army National Guard soldiers late last year that revealed similar problems.

Rep. Todd R. Platts of Pennsylvania, chairman of the subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management, has been working with the Department of Defense to try to correct pay glitches, which he called "outrageous."

"These are men and women going into harm's way," Platts said, "and we should be doing everything to support them, not creating stress and uncertainty."

Apart from affecting what he called "mission performance," Platts said these issues had been shown to cause troops to decide not to re-enlist.

Sgt. Jesus Salcedo of York, Pa., served 11 months with the 443rd in Baghdad and said he was never sure he was receiving the pay he was owed.

Ultimately, he discovered he had been shortchanged on his enlistment bonus and still has not been paid his per diem for travel back to the United States.

"How can I, in a combat environment, find out if my 4-month-old and my 5½-year-old kids are taken care of?" said Salcedo, a corrections officer at York County Prison. "I don't want to be rash, but it was like a slap in the face."

"I came home and they threw me a parade. Wonderful," he said. "But it's not paying my bills."

Almost half of the Army's Reserve — about 98,000 soldiers — have been mobilized to active duty at some point since September 2001, according to the GAO.

The agency studied eight Army Reserve units, including the 431st Chemical Detachment in Johnstown, Pa. Ninety-five percent of the soldiers were affected, with many experiencing more than one variety of pay problem.

Of the 348 reservists — all of whom were mobilized at some point between August 2002 and January 2004 — 256 received an estimated \$247,000 in overpayments, 294 received about \$51,000 in underpayments, and 245 soldiers received about \$77,000 in late payments, the GAO found.

In addition, none of the 303 who deployed to designated combat zones received the proper tax exemptions.

"The consequences of inaccurate, late and missing payments and associated erroneous debts had a profound impact on individual soldiers and their families," said the prepared testimony of GAO investigator Gregory D. Kutz. "At one unit several soldiers told us that they had to borrow money from friends and relatives in order to pay their bills when they initially deployed overseas."

The GAO faulted "cumbersome and complex" Pentagon pay processes, a shortage of well-trained military pay staff, and weaknesses in the computerized pay system used by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

IN THE WORLD

Troop reductions not on table with N. Korea

BY JEREMY KIRK

Stars and Stripes

YONGSAN GARRISON, South Korea — U.S. troop reductions in South Korea will not be part of talks aiming to stop North Korea's nuclear program, a top U.S. arms control official said Wednesday.

The U.S. State Department's John Bolton, undersecretary for arms control and international security, said the U.S.-South Korean alliance's capabilities won't be weakened during negotiations with North Korea.

"How we structure the forces and how we deploy them obviously is for the United States and the Republic of Korea to consider on their own, not to negotiate with the North," Bolton told students and international studies scholars at Yonsei University in an hour-long talk. Bolton was in Seoul through Thursday, meeting with South Korea Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon and other officials on non-proliferation issues. Bolton's presentations at the university and a later news conference focused on the United States' latest proposal to North Korea on how to deal with its nuclear program.

He said North Korea has yet to

respond to the proposal, presented last month during bilateral "six-way" talks in Beijing among North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States. The United States has sought a verifiable, complete dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear program.

Despite the 21-month-old nuclear problem, the United States wishes to withdraw around 12,500 servicemen from its 27,000-strong force in South Korea by the end of 2005, U.S. officials have said. Negotiations on that proposal continue with the South Korean government.

About 3,600 2nd Infantry Division soldiers stationed near the Demilitarized Zone are training to deploy to Iraq starting next month.

The United States will not settle for a program freeze or give incentives before North Korea dismantles its weapons-of-mass-destruction programs, Bolton said. If it complies, he said, North Korea eventually could see benefits similar to those enjoyed now by Libya, which gave up such programs in December.

Western business people now can be seen in hotels in Tripoli, and travel restrictions and economic sanctions have been eased, Bolton said.

When asked if the U.S. military was willing to take military action against North Korea, Bolton said, "We think it's special to succeed through peaceful and diplomatic means ... that's why we are pursuing the course that we are pursuing now."

Rep. Weldon meets with North Koreans

BY BARRY SCHWEID

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States could persuade North Korea to end its nuclear weapons program in exchange for a guarantee not to attack or overthrow its government, Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., said Wednesday after an unprecedented meeting with North Korean officials.

"They want to be sure we are not going to attempt a regime change," Weldon said in an interview a day after hosting the first-ever visit to Congress by senior North Korean officials.

Vice chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and a strong supporter of the U.S.

military, Weldon said, "We need to prevent war and Congress can play a very substantive role, not in negotiating but in exploring options."

The Bush administration permitted the visit by Pak Gil Yon, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations, and Pak's deputy, Han Song Ryol, who normally are limited to a 25-mile radius of New York City.

Pak and Han attended a seminar in the Dirksen Senate Office Building attended by members of Congress and the South Korean parliament as well as analysts from private Washington think tanks.

Donald Gregg, a former U.S. ambassador to South Korea who

is chairman of the Korea Society, helped make arrangements. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said the administration did not participate in the conference, nor did its officials meet with the North Koreans.

The United States, Japan, South Korea, Russia and China have held negotiations with North Korea that so far are inconclusive.

"We have made clear that we don't have a hostile policy," Boucher said. "We have no intent to invade North Korea, no intent to attack. In fact, the United States has put proposals on the table to solve this peacefully."

However, Boucher said the option of using force remained.

Bolton



ing now."

North Korea's biggest threat would be to use its weapons of mass destruction as blackmail, or to transfer them to terrorists, he said, noting that South Korea has expressed support for the Proliferation Security Initiative, a program that seeks to disrupt black marketing of components for weapons of mass destruction.

The CIA has stated that it believes North Korea already may have produced several nuclear

weapons, but North Korean officials have not overtly claimed possession, referring to the North Korean program as a "nuclear deterrent." U.S. intelligence agencies concluded unanimously in 2002 that North Korea is pursuing a production-scope procurement program, Bolton said.

When asked if the United States could quell any doubts about North Korea's armament activities by releasing more intelligence, Bolton said, "Revealing some of this infor-

mation in and of itself tells the North Koreans a substantial amount and would aid in their concealment and denial and deception activities."

A short-term release of information could hurt long-term information gathering on North Korea, he said.

"It's a dilemma that we have, and we always have, with classified information," he said.

E-mail: Jeremy Kirk at: kirkjp@stripes.osd.mil

Security forces find head of slain U.S. hostage

BY ABDULLAH AL-SHIIRI

The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — The head of slain American hostage Paul M. Johnson Jr., who was kidnapped and decapitated by militants in Saudi Arabia last month, was found by security forces during a raid that targeted the hideout of the Saudi al-Qaida chief. Two militants were killed, the Interior Ministry said Wednesday.

The Interior Ministry said the head was discovered in a freezer in a house, although Johnson's body was not found and another search was being conducted.

The spokeswoman for the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh, Carol Kalin, said that Saudi authorities informed the embassy of the discovery and that consular officials in

Washington were in the process of notifying Johnson's family.

The Interior Ministry said the head occurred in the King Fahd neighborhood of Riyadh. An earlier statement from an official at the ministry said authorities were holding the wife and three children of Saleh Mohammed al-Aoofi, the man believed to be al-Qaida chief in Saudi Arabia, after the raid.

Johnson, a 49-year-old engineer who had worked in Saudi Arabia for more than a decade, was kidnapped June 12 by militants in Riyadh who followed through on a threat to kill him if the kingdom did not release its al-Qaida prisoners. Saudi security forces shot and killed Abdulaziz al-Mogrin, al-Qaida mastermind of Johnson's kidnapping and killing. Last week, U.S. authorities announced the

search for Johnson's body had been called off.

Paul Johnson III, reached by telephone in Washington by The Associated Press, said he has received no official confirmation about the discovery.

The elder Johnson was an engineer for Lockheed Martin who worked on Apache helicopters and grew up in Eagleswood Township, N.J.

The Saudi Interior Ministry said the discovery was made after a search of one of three locations following the late Tuesday raid. Weapons, including an anti-aircraft SAM-7 missile that appeared in previous military videotapes, explosives, chemicals, video cameras and cash were among items seized.

One of the militants killed in the raid, identified by the Interior Min-

istry as Issa Saad Mohammed bin Oushan, is on the Saudi government's list of wanted militants. The statement declined to identify the wounded who are in custody. Pan-Arab news station have reported that al-Aoofi, who is believed to have succeeded al-Mogrin, may be among the casualties. Another group of militants fired on police men engaging the first group of militants in an attempt to distract members of the security forces, the Interior Ministry official said. Authorities are still pursuing those gunmen.

Two more suspects were seized after security forces searched three other locations, the ministry said. The shootout was the most serious since Saudi forces killed al-Mogrin in May 2003.

King Fahd last month offered

militants amnesty if they turned themselves in before Friday. He said he wouldn't seek the death penalty for those who surrendered.

Four militants have come forward and security forces have stepped up efforts to capture the rest.

A monthlong amnesty offered by Saudi King Fahd to militants who turn themselves in has failed to attract hard-core militants responsible for the killings of scores of Saudis and foreigners in waves of the attacks that began in May 2003.

Since the amnesty was announced on June 23, however, four wanted men have surrendered to Saudi authorities, including Khalid bin Ouda bin Mohammed al-Harby, a confidant of al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden, and 27 others have been repatriated from a number of countries.

Report: U.S. Special Forces to help with Summer Olympics

Stars and Stripes

Greece will allow 400 American Special Forces troops to be present at the Olympic Games under NATO auspices. The New York Times reported Wednesday.

The delicate arrangements, which officials say will not be formally acknowledged for fear of roiling anti-American sentiment, represent a significant departure

from Olympic tradition and Greek law, which prohibits foreign personnel from carrying weapons within the country, the Times reported.

Until now, the only nation known to have armed security forces at the Olympics is Israel, whose agents have been armed largely without prior approval from host countries since 1972, when Black September, a Palestinian group, killed Israeli athletes and officials in Munich.

The agreements also allow 100 armed American agents to be used largely as bodyguards for American athletes and dignitaries. The FBI also is sending a hostage rescue team, as well as evidence-gathering and analysis personnel. They, too, will be armed, an American law enforcement official told The Times.

Despite the agreements, Greece and the United States are still in prickly negotia-

tions over the rules that will govern the American security agents.

"I'm certain we are going to be able to carry our guns," an American official said. "I'm not sure what we're going to own up to."

The Greeks had made a number of other concessions that the Americans will not admit to, he said. "We must do this in a way that gives the Greeks their national pride."

Hawking changes mind on nature of black holes

BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK

The Associated Press

DUBLIN, Ireland — Famed astrophysicist Stephen Hawking said Wednesday that black holes, the mysterious massive vortexes formed from collapsed stars, do not destroy everything they consume but instead eventually fire out matter and energy "in a mangled form."

Hawking's radical new thinking, presented in a paper to the 17th International Conference on General Relativity and Gravitation in Dublin, capped his three-decade struggle to explain an elemental paradox in scientific thinking: How can black holes destroy all traces of consumed matter and energy, as Hawking long believed, when subatomic theory says such elements must survive in some form? Hawking's answer is that the black holes hold their contents for eons but themselves eventually deteriorate and die. As the black holes disintegrate, they send their transformed contents back out into the infinite universe, "horizons from whence they came."

Previously, Hawking, 62, had held out the possibility that disappearing matter travels through the black hole to a new parallel universe — the very stuff of most visionary science fiction.

"There is no baby universe branching off, as I once thought. The information remains firmly in our universe," Hawking said in a speech to the conference.

"I'm sorry to disappoint science fiction fans, but if information is preserved, there is no possibility of using black holes to travel to other universes," he said. "If you jump into a black hole, your mass energy will be returned to our universe, but in a mangled form, which contains the information about what you were like, but in an unrecognizable state."

At that point, the audience of about 800 people, including many of his peers, laughed.

He added, "It's great to solve a problem that has been troubling me for nearly 30 years, even though the answer is less exciting than the alternative I suggested."

In a humorous aside, Hawking settled a 29-year-old bet made with Caltech astrophysicist John Preskill, who insisted in 1975 that matter consumed by black holes couldn't be destroyed. He presented Preskill a favored reference work, "Total Baseball, The Ultimate Baseball Encyclopedia" after having it specially flown over from the United States.

"I had great difficulty in finding one over here, so I offered him an encyclopedia of cricket as an alternative," Hawking said, "but John wouldn't be persuaded of the superiority of cricket."

Later, Preskill said he was very pleased to have won the bet, but added, "I'll be honest, I didn't understand the talk." Like other scientists there, he had he looked forward to reading the detailed paper that Hawking is expected to publish next month.



Palestinian Prime Minister Arafat leaves the hospital Wednesday after visiting lawmaker Nabil Amr in the West Bank town of Ramallah. A unidentified assailant fired at Amr, an advocate of reforms for years.

AP

Accept resignations, Arafat told

Legislature threatens strike over lack of authority

BY MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — The Palestinian parliament passed a resolution Wednesday calling on Yasser Arafat to accept the resignations of his prime minister and Cabinet, stepping up pressure on the Palestinian leader to relinquish some of his power.

In a rare show of independence, the legislature asked Arafat to form a new Cabinet better equipped to handle the internal unrest after a week of turmoil in the Gaza Strip.

Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, finding himself powerless to deal with the recent wave of demonstrations and kidnappings, submitted his resignation over the weekend, but Arafat rejected it. The two men remain deadlocked.

Raouf Fattouh, speaker of the Legislative Council, said the legislature would hold an emergency session Thursday to decide on further action. Lawmakers are considering a monthlong strike or week-long sit-in to protest Arafat's refusal to grant more authority to the Cabinet and parliament.

"Every one of us is responsible" for failing to deal with the security crisis in Gaza and the instability of the Palestinian government, Cabinet minister and lawmaker Qadoura Fares said.

"Arafat is the most responsible for the failure. President Arafat failed and the Palestinian government failed, the Palestinian political factions failed," he told The Associated Press.

The resolution followed Tuesday's shooting of Nabil Amr, a former Cabinet minister and outspoken critic of Arafat's management of the Palestinian Authority. Amr was shot twice and critically wounded by a gunman on the balcony of his Ramallah home, said Amr's son, Tareq. The assailant escaped.

Qureia said Amr's shooting was an example of the "deep security crisis" engulfing the Palestinian areas. "This is further proof of the dangers of the continuation of the state of paralysis of the security apparatus," said a statement from the prime minister's office.

Arafat ordered an investigation, telephoned Amr to inquire about his condition and sent bodyguards to protect him, the official Palestinian news service, Wafa, reported.

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by Andrew O'Connell

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Tokyo student bully

TOKYO — A Japanese grade-bullied a classmate into giving him over 1 million yen (\$9,200) over several years but he and his friends could buy video games, fishing gear and snacks, an official said Tuesday.

The 11-year-old student at a public school in western Tokyo had been squeezing cash out of his classmate since they were in the third grade, said Shigeru Sakurai, a member of the Kyosei Board of Education overseeing the boys' school.

The parents of the victim, also 11, grew suspicious after noticing a large sum of money had been

withdrawn from a bank account they seldom used, Sakurai said.

The national Asahi newspaper reported that the parents saw footage from the bank's security camera, which showed their son, 11, and the group taking out money from their account through an ATM. The parents then contacted the police.

Soap suds a hit

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Some people at a three-day music festival in southern Sweden got more than just clean hands from the liquid soap in the portable toilets.

They got a nice clean buzz, too. Since the detergent had 62 per-

cent alcohol in it, some users were more keen on spiking their sodas than washing their hands.

Irish smoking ban fine

DUBLIN, Ireland — The first pub owner prosecuted for breaking Ireland's ban on workplace smoking has been fined \$2,100 and warned not to break the law again.

Padraig Folan, owner of the Ti Hanraui pub in rural County Galway, could have faced a fine of up to \$3,700. Ireland became the first nation in the world to ban tobacco use in enclosed workplaces, including the nation's more than 10,000 pubs.

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IN THE STATES

Bush awaits Sept. 11 report

BY HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Wednesday his administration is doing everything possible to prevent another terrorist attack as he braced for a report sharply critical of the government's intelligence-gathering before Sept. 11, 2001.

"I look forward to receiving the report," Bush said in the Rose Garden as he signed a bill at the White House to develop and stockpile vaccines and other antidotes to biological and chemical weapons. He made his remarks one day before the independent commission investigating the terrorist attacks releases a 500-page report detailing intelligence lapses and other governmental failures that allowed the terrorist hijackings to succeed.

"I will continue to work with the Congress and state and local governments to build on the homeland security improvements we have already made," Bush said.

Commission Chairman Thomas Kean, a former New Jersey governor, and Democratic Vice Chairman Lee Hamilton, a former Indiana congressman, are to present Bush with a copy of the report on Thursday.

Congress isn't likely to undertake major revisions of the nation's intelligence operations this year, House Speaker Dennis Hastert said, casting doubt on the Sept. 11 commission's push for immediate changes once its final report is released.

The panel of five Republicans and five Democrats also will call for a new Cabinet-level intelligence chief and recommend combining the House and Senate intelligence committees and removing term limits from committee members, according to GOP House leaders informally briefed on the report Tuesday.

"It is time to put somebody in charge of the entire intelligence community, and give that person the budgetary and statutory authority to accomplish the job," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who has introduced a bill to create the position and has bipartisan support from five colleagues.

Berger: Document flap 'honest mistake'

BY CLINT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former national security adviser Sandy Berger says he regrets the way he handled classified terrorism documents, calling the whole thing "an honest mistake." Republicans say the matter raises questions about whether the former Clinton administration official sought to hide embarrassing materials.

"What information could be so embarrassing that a man with decades of experience in handling classified documents would risk being caught pilfering our nation's most sensitive secrets?" House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., said. "Mr. Berger has a lot of explaining to do."

The Justice Department is investigating whether Berger committed a crime by removing from the

National Archives copies of documents about the government's anti-terror efforts and notes that he took on those documents.

Berger was reviewing the materials to help determine which Clinton administration documents to provide to the independent commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

When news of the investigation surfaced, Berger on Tuesday quit as an informal adviser to John Kerry's presidential campaign to limit

the political fallout.

Kerry said later, "Sandy Berger is my friend, and he has tirelessly served this nation with honor and distinction. I respect his decision to step aside as an adviser to this campaign until this matter is resolved objectively and fairly."

Berger told reporters he was not guilty of criminal wrongdoing.

"Last year, when I was in the Archives reviewing documents, I made an honest mistake. It's one that I deeply regret," Berger said. "I dealt with this issue in October 2003 fully and completely. Everything that I have done all along in this process has been for the purpose of aiding and supporting the work of the 9/11 commission, and any suggestion to the contrary is simply, absolutely wrong."

Many Democrats, including former President Clinton himself,

suggested that politics were behind disclosure of the probe only days before Thursday's scheduled release of the Sept. 11 commission report. That report is expected to be highly critical of the government's response to the growing al-Qaida threat, a potential blow to President Bush's re-election campaign.

"It's interesting timing," Clinton said at a Denver autograph session for his book, "My Life." Berger served as national security adviser for all of Clinton's second term.

Berger and his lawyer, Larry Brewer, said the former Clinton adviser knowingly removed the handwritten notes by placing them in his jacket and pants and inadvertently took copies of actual classified documents in a leather portfolio. He returned some of the documents, but some still are missing.



Berger

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Congress OKs extending 3 tax cuts

BY MARY DALRYMPLE

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House and Senate negotiators have agreed to extend for two more years President Bush's tax cuts for wage earners, parents and married couples, but lawmakers said Wednesday the deal did not have the support of the White House, which wanted a longer extension.

President Bush had asked Congress to act this week, before Republicans and Democrats leave for the presidential nominating conventions, and prevent the tax cuts from expiring at the end of the year.

Negotiators agreed to keep the three tax cuts in place through 2006. The emerging understanding was described by congressional aides speaking on the condition of anonymity because negotiators had not yet announced an agreement.

The White House, however, had asked lawmakers to extend the tax cuts for five years. Sen. Max Baucus of Montana, the top Democrat on the Senate's tax writing committee, said Wednesday, "the White House is still opposed" to the two-year extension.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said negotiations remained "fluid." Frist said he'd like to see the tax cuts extended more than two years also, perhaps permanently.

A group of the Senate's moderate Republicans and Democrats had signaled they wanted a short extension, as little as one year.

"Our members are hungry for something that will pass," said Stuart Roy, spokesman for House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

The tax cuts that would be extended increased the child tax credit to \$1,000, broadened the bottom 10 percent income tax bracket and lowered taxes for some married couples who pay higher taxes than they would if

unmarried. They had been set to expire at the end of the year.

If the tax cuts were left to expire at the end of the year, Americans would see three tax increases — slightly higher income taxes, a \$300 reduction in the child tax credit and a reduction in tax benefits for married couples.

The framework also freezes the alternative minimum tax in place for a year. The alternative minimum tax was designed to stop wealthy individuals from avoiding taxes but has started to encroach on less wealthy families over time because of the effects of inflation.

Negotiators did absorb other priorities outlined by the moderate senators, including changes that make the child tax credit more generous to some families.

They also agreed to a popular proposal for simplifying tax laws by replacing the five different definitions of a "child" in tax laws with one definition.

Microsoft to pay out \$32B in dividends

BY ALLISON LINN

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Bowing to pressure after years of enormous profits but a stagnating stock price, Microsoft Corp. is dipping into its substantial cash reserves with plans to return as much as \$75 billion to shareholders over a combination of dividends and stock buybacks.

The software giant has amassed billions in recent years, most notably from sales of its two cash cows: the dominant Windows operating system and popular Office software. It generated \$10.4 billion in cash during its 2003 fiscal year.

But its stock price has been little changed for almost three years. That has increased pressure on the company to do something with a cash pile that now totals at least \$56 billion.

Now that many of its legal troubles appear to have been resolved, the company said it finally felt free to spend part of its stockpile.

The Redmond, Wash.-based company plans to pay a one-time dividend of \$3 per share — at a cost of \$32 billion — and will double its annual dividend to 32 cents per share.

The payout suggests Microsoft has, at least for now, put off plans to use the money to make a major acquisition or to punch up growth. Microsoft disclosed last month that it had initiated merger talks with German software maker SAP, but it called off the potentially costly deal after deciding it would be too complex.

The monumental payout will give shareholders a quick gain and the buyback may help lift Microsoft's languishing share price.

The dividend and buyback plans were announced after the close of markets Tuesday.

President Bush signs vaccine legislation

BY DEB RIECHMANN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Wednesday signed legislation to develop and stockpile vaccines and other antidotes to chemical and germ attacks, saying the measure will "rally the great promise of American science and innovation to confront the greatest danger of our time."

The legislation, called Project BioShield, provides the drug industry with incentives to research and develop bioterrorism countermeasures. It speeds up the approval process of antidotes and, in an emergency, allows the government to distribute certain treatments before the Food and Drug Administration has approved them.

"We know that the terrorists seek an even deadlier technology, and if they acquire chemical, biological or nuclear weapons we have no doubt they will use them to cause even greater harm," Bush said in the Rose Garden. He said the legislation sends a message about America's direction in the war on terror — that the United



President Bush signs legislation Wednesday that will provide the drug industry with incentives to research and develop bioterrorism antidotes.

States refuses to stand idle "when modern technology might be turned against us."

U.S. officials are hoping that Project BioShield will yield enough new-generation anthrax vaccine to dose 25 million people. Federal health officials also hope that the \$5.6 billion program

will provide antidotes for botulism and anthrax, a safer small-pox vaccine and a long-awaited children's version of an anti-radiation pill.

The program received bipartisan support in Congress. It passed the House on a 414-2 vote July 15. The discovery of sarin gas in a

roadside bomb in Iraq and ricin and anthrax attacks against the Capitol spurred the Senate to pass it 99-10 in May.

"Modern terrorist threats come not just from explosions, but also from silent killers such as deadly germs and chemical agents," Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., an author of the bill, said in a statement. "Project BioShield creates a life-saving partnership between our government and the private sector to develop the vaccines needed to protect our citizens from this bioterrorism."

"This bill will save millions of lives," Kennedy said.

The bill signing was one of several events this week where Bush is defending his administration's efforts to secure the homeland as the release of the Sept. 11 commission's report on Thursday reminds Americans of the nation's vulnerability to terrorist attacks.

On Thursday, Bush was to sign the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, giving qualified off-duty and retired law enforcement officers the ability to carry their concealed firearms nationwide.

West sees mild start to wildfire season — except in Alaska

BY ANGIE WAGNER

The Associated Press

Months before wildfires sweep across the West each year, Lois Gruver packs a suitcase with pictures of her four children and her favorite paintings. She's always ready to sling it into her trunk if flames head toward her home in Bend, Ore.

"One lightning strike ... You just better be ready and hope it never comes," said Gruver, 69, whose neighborhood is surrounded by juniper trees.

The fire season has been a mild one so far for people in the West. Fires in California, Arizona and Nevada have made headlines, but the 1 million acres that have burned in the Lower 48 states is

about half the national average this late in the summer.

But national statistics show this has been one of the worst fire seasons in years. The reason, in a word, is Alaska.

The state is having one of its worst seasons in decades, with 3.5 million acres of remote and unpopulated forest already charred.

That is the bulk of the 4.4 million acres of forest that have burned this year, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

But the balance is likely to shift soon, forecasters warn. They say the worst is yet to come for the

"One lightning strike ... You just better be ready and hope it never comes."

Lois Gruver
Homeowner

continental United States, especially in the Pacific Northwest.

"Right now probably the Lower 48 has been a little slower than normal in terms of not as many fires, not as many acres, as we normally have," said Rick Ochon, national fire weather program manager for the Bureau of Land Management in Boise, Idaho.

Alaska wildfires have a quirky nature all their own.

Light rain showers have little effect on hot fires in Alaska, be-

cause the fast-burning black spruce of its forests tend to be near quick-drying moss and lichen.

"They could burn again 20 minutes after it stopped raining," said Pat Garbutt, a fire behavior analyst from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Alaska also has long summer days — 21 hours in parts of the Interior — meaning less overnight humidity to calm fires. And fire managers say it's sometimes difficult to find fires.

Because of Alaska's vast land, limited highways and small population, fires are usually just allowed to burn unless they threaten people or structures. That

means more land will burn than in the more populated West.

Currently, Alaska has about 107 fires burning, but only 20 are being fought.

Officials note Alaska is near the usual end of its season, which they hope will come on schedule. But in the Lower 48, forecasters say, the fires will come, and this year still is likely to be a bad one.

The Pacific Northwest is just now getting into its fire season, Gruver, Ochon said. Fire season shifts from different parts of the West throughout the summer and usually doesn't begin in the Pacific Northwest and the northern Rockies until about now and runs through mid-September. Wildfires in southern California usually pick up around late summer.

Mary-Kate to get out

After six weeks at a treatment facility for a health-related issue, Mary-Kate Olsen, the brunette half of the Olsen twins, is "doing well" and her fans can "expect her to return home soon," her publicist, Michael Pagnotta, said Tuesday.

The 18-year-old actress has been reported to be battling an eating disorder.

People magazine said Tuesday that Mary-Kate will be released this weekend, return home to her family and begin preparing for college in the fall.

Mary-Kate, and her blond twin sister, Ashley, turned 18 in June. They plan to attend New York University in the fall.

They've been acting together since they were 9 months old, most notably on the sitcom "Full House" and in a series of direct-to-video movies. They've also attached their names to a line of products ranging from clothing to beauty items to home decor merchandise.

Their big-screen debut, "New York Minute," did poorly at its box office after its May release.

Director needed

Tom Cruise better hope his latest mission is anything but impossible: find a new director for "Mission: Impossible 3" ASAP.

Cruise, who's starring and co-producing the spy sequel, needs to find a new director fast, now that filmmaker **Joe Carnahan** has bailed on the project, citing the usual "creative differences," reports E! Online.

With production on the third installment of Paramount's blockbuster franchise scheduled to begin next month, the 42-year-old Cruise needs to start working the Rolodex.

Carnahan is the latest filmmaker to drop out. "Seven" director **David Fincher** had originally signed to do "MI3" but opted out for another project.

Travolta to tell all?

John Travolta is already an actor, singer and pilot. Now he may add "author" to that list, reports MSNBC.com.

The "Pulp Fiction" and "Get Shorty" star is planning to write a book about his life, says a source, and his people have been calling publishing houses to set up meetings between the star and editors.

The source adds that it's "highly unusual" for a star who not too long ago was reportedly earning \$20 million a movie to write about his life. "Usually, it's the lesser stars or someone in the twilight of his career or country and western stars," said the source, who added that it's "unclear" whether Travolta will address tabloid reports that have haunted him.

"He certainly has an interesting story to tell," said the source, who said he was told "not to be surprised" if Travolta wants to write about the influence his religion, Scientology, has had on his life.

From wire services

Let's get ready to ogle

There's no shortage of competitors as WWE seeks a RAW Diva finalist

BY LYNN ELBER

The Associated Press

MARINA DEL REY, CALIF.

There were twins, two sets, all very blond. There were women in low-cut blouses, high-cut skirts and enough lip gloss to put a good shine on a midsize car.

Grunting, groaning and airborne bodies were nowhere to be seen when more than 100 hopefuls gathered for World Wrestling Entertainment's RAW Diva contest.

Instead, mirror space was at a premium in a ballroom of the seaside Ritz-Carlton Hotel as the women meticulously primed for interviews and photos.

A perfumed cloud lingered heavily in the restroom. "Wow, you can sure smell a lot of hair products in here," one would-be diva marveled.

It's sweetness, not sweat, WWE wants in the winner who will get a \$250,000, yearlong contract. Viewers of Spike TV's Monday night two-hour "RAW" programming block will decide the outcome over the next two months.

Tryouts also were held in Chicago and New York, yielding a field of 28 contestants who were winnowed to 10 finalists on a live special that aired last week July 15 on Spike.

Is wrestling, long seen as a bastion of

trash and flash, going soft?

No, just trying to gradually class up its act, said Kevin Dunn, WWE executive vice president of television production.

"It's easy to go lowbrow," he said. "That's not where we're going with our product in general, or this search. We'll be fighting our image for 50 years, because there's 50 years [of tradition] before us, and we understand that."

Of the future diva, he said, "We want someone we can put on a pedestal here and who can represent the WWE in a classy — I wouldn't say sophisticated — but a classy, nice manner."

What she will actually do remains to be defined.

The diva doesn't need to wrestle but could if she wanted. She might become an announcer, a global WWE representative or a "character" in the WWE family that includes wrestlers Triple H, John Cena and Torrie Wilson.

"Our show is entertainment and this woman will have what it takes to entertain our fans," said Lisa Lee, WWE director of global television business affairs. "We can work with her to develop and showcase that ability in a number of ways."

Through telephone and Internet voting, viewers will dump one contestant each week until three are left. The winner will be chosen on the Sept. 13 installment of "RAW."

Weekly competitions, yet to be designed, will help viewers decide the most diva-esque individual. Really skimpy attire also will help guide the audience in its decision-making.

Contestants, trying to cover all bases, tossed a grab bag of credentials at judges in the tryouts. Up to 7,000 women responded to the open call for diva applicants; only a few hundred made the semifinal cut.

Jennifer R. Lopez (not THAT J. Lo, as far as we know) listed a victory in the Hawaiian Tropic modeling contest and talents including "bellydancing, cartoon voices, stabs a knife through her fingers very fast." A finalist? Yes!

Carmella DeCesare, another finalist, was Playboy.com's February 2003 Cyber Girl of the Month and 2004 Playmate of the Year. She also appeared in ads for swim-



AP photos

Brandy Michelle Bourgoin, center, and other women competing for a \$250,000 contract with World Wrestling Entertainment prepare for the WWE's RAW Diva contest at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in the Marina Del Rey area of Los Angeles earlier this month.

wear, toothpaste and Pamper's.

Twins Julia and Chandra Costello, whose credits include serving as original "juggo dancers" on "The Man Show," both made the cut. Kimmy and Amy Brown, the other Los Angeles-area twin set,

"Our show is entertainment and this woman will have what it takes to entertain our fans."

Lisa Lee

WWE director of global television business affairs

were cruelly divided: Kimmy is in, her sister is out.

In a promotional spot for the diva contest included in last Monday's "RAW," one twin, presumably the loser, was seen softly weeping. Turns out there is crying in wrestling.

More than a bruised ego is at stake. There's the money and exposure that could lead to ... well, that's anybody's guess.

"RAW" is consistently the top-rated series on ad-supported cable, attracting up to 7 million weekly viewers, although many contestants were unfamiliar with the show or sport.

"It's not about wrestling for me," said finalist Karen McDoug-

al, who tried out with friend Heather Tindell. "They're looking for a host and that's what we like to do."

Although not a wrestling fan, "I could easily turn into one," offers McDougall, a model, actress and the 1998 Playmate of the Year. Her host credits include "E! Wild On" and Playboy TV.

McDougall's age? "Next question."

A few out-of-towners came to this diva search, but the pre-screened group was mostly a familiar Los Angeles mix drawn to yet another chance for fame and fortune — beauty required, talent optional.

"Right now, I'm just doing the L.A. thing," said Tiffany Holliday, a former Playboy bunny who could be kin to Pamela Anderson and who was urged by a "fan in Texas" to try out.

After living at Hugh Hefner's mansion for two years, she figures: "I think I've been in training for this. I think I can definitely handle it."

She didn't make the finals, but Holliday has bigger dreams: the novel she's writing and the screenplay she hopes will follow.

Willoway model-actress Nina Hardin professed a longtime love of wrestling ("I grew up watching Hulk Hogan") and said the money and chance to get on TV were equally appealing.

One of the finalists, Hardin is ready for wherever divahood might take her.

"I'm up to any possibility, any opportunity. I'm a spontaneous, fun type of girl. It's all good."

Tour puts Bush on the hot seat

Activist says flame-shooting effigy calls attention to 'lies'

The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Call it the burning Bush.

The co-founder of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream is on the road, towing a 12-foot-tall effigy of President Bush with fake flames shooting out of the pants.

Ben Cohen says it's an acceptable way to point out what he calls the president's lies.

The "PantsOnFire-Mobile" is a trailer pulled behind a car. The Bush character wears a flight suit with the words "Mission Accomplished" emblazoned on the back, a reference to the president's declaration aboard the deck of an aircraft carrier that major hostilities had ended in Iraq. An electronic ticker on the front displays what Cohen says are Bush's lies.

The head is a rotating cylinder with various Bush fake expressions.

White House spokesman Ken Lisius said most people in America support Bush's policies, and that the president supports free speech.

The project is run by volunteers. Cohen flies to a town to train a crew of drivers, teaching them things like how to crank up the smoke machine. Volunteers come from an Internet organization Cohen founded called TrueMajority.org.

The Web site, which sends out liberal action calls to subscribers, is not affiliated with Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. In 2000, international conglomerate Unilever purchased the ice cream company. Cohen and co-founder Jerry Greenfield now serve as "ambassadors" for the company.

Reaction to the effigy across the country has been overwhelmingly positive, Cohen said, so much so that he has com-



Ben Cohen demonstrates an effigy of President Bush with fake flames shooting out of his pants Tuesday in Spokane, Wash.

missioned a second one to tour.

Portraying flames shooting out of the pants of the president isn't disrespectful, Cohen argued. "I believe that it's disrespectful of the president to essentially lead the country based on lies," he said. "If that happens, then I believe it's actually our patriotic duty to make people aware of it."

Kerry spending now nearly matches Bush

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Kerry has nearly matched President Bush in spending since the primaries ended, tapping record donations to pour roughly \$111 million into his bid over the past four months.

Both Kerry and Bush have taken in unprecedented sums, thanks in part to their decisions to skip public financing and its \$45 million spending limit through the primaries. The decision freed them to raise as much as possible in private donations.

Kerry reported to the Federal Election Commission last Tuesday that he raised a Democratic record of more than \$186 million from January 2003 through last month, including roughly \$37 million in June. Internet fund raising played a big role, accounting for about one-third of his donations last month.

The Massachusetts senator started July with about \$37 million on hand after spending roughly \$28 million in June. Kerry spent about \$110 million from his sweep of the Super Tuesday primaries on March 2 through June as he and Bush hit the airwaves with ads; overall, Kerry has spent at least \$149 million on his White House bid.

Bush spent roughly \$164 million on his re-election effort through June. That includes about \$12 million last month and \$114 million from March through last month.

Bush started July with \$64 million in the bank, a finance report he filed Tuesday with the Federal Election Commission showed.

The Republican incumbent took in about \$13 million last month, pushing his record fund raising to around \$230 million.

Bush and Kerry are each expected to accept \$75 million in full government financing for the fall campaign after the party conventions.



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MOVIES

• SPORTS

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6 AFN-P	•ESPNs Light (CC)	Pacific Report	The Simpsons "Fraudulent News" Lisa starts her own newspaper. (CC)	Malcolm in the Middle "Scribble" Malcolm can't play ball. (CC) (DVS)	The Apprentice (CC)	Alias "Fascist" Sydney and Vaughn try to locate a bomb through its designer. (CC)	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)	Late Show (CC)			
7 AFN-AT	5:30 Guiding Light (CC)	General Hospital (CC) (DVS)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)				House of Mouse (CC)	Rocko's Modern Life (CC)	Ozzy & D'Lea "Sig- ur Shock" (CC)	As Told by Ginger "Easter Ham" (CC)
8 NEWS	CNN Daybreak		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		Good Morning America (CC)				Headline News	ABC World News This Morning (CC)	The Early Show (CC)	
9 SPORTS	•SportsCenter		•MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced						•SportsCenter		•Real Sports (CC)	
10 SPECT	The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA en- list Johnny to help track down al-Qaida master Osama bin Laden.		Boston Public Chapter Twenty-Nine Maria finds when a senior boy plans to take a freshman girl to the prom.		The Crocodile Hunter "Wildest Home Video" Highlights from the Australia Zoo's video archives. (CC)	Toyota World of Wonders	Animal Adven- tures "To the Res- cue" (E) (CC)	Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Entropy" Jill leaves the altar. Anya seeks revenge against Xander. (CC)	The X-Files "Misgr" While tracking a killer, Scully finds herself entangled in the chief suspect. (CC)			
11 TMC	(5:55) • "Attack of the Puppet People" NR	(25) • • "Reckless" (1995, Comedy) Mike Farrow, Scott Barn, Mary Louise Parker. A housewife on the run finds shelter with weird strangers. PG-13	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (CC)		Washington Week (N) (CC)	Wall Street Week With Fortune (N) (CC)	Now With Bill Moyers (N) (CC)	• "Crossroads" (2002, Comedy-Drama) Jason Mew, Zoe Saldana. Three young women on a trek to Los Angeles. PG-13 to the adults. (CC)	• (35) • • "R Barnes" (2001) Dina De Matteis.			
12 PBS	Clifford the Big Red Dog (Vid) also a puppy	Dragon Tales Mac becomes a giant. (CC) (DVS)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (CC)					Tucker Carlson Unfiltered (N) (CC)	Pack to the Floor (CC)	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		
25 SHOW	(4:30) • • "Clean Slate" (1994) Dana Carvey	City Confidential Elizabeth Hill: Sins of the Rabbi? A beloved rabbi is implicated in the murder of his wife. (CC)	• "Double Whammy" (2001, Comedy) Denis Leary, Sherry Stringfield. A depressed cop and his wife. (CC)	American Justice "Chris O'Brien" A woman accuses her ex-husband of murder. (CC)	Biography "Aileen Wuornos" A prostitute is executed for murdering seven men. (CC)	Africa's Great Rivers	Wild and Dangerous	Dead Like Me "Nightwinks" The reapers endure a late night on the job. (CC)	Free for All "Family Business" (9) Reeses Jacy. Adam teaches his class on time.	American Justice "A Soldier's Savior" A soldier is murdered. (CC)	To Be Announced	
28 DISC	To Be Announced		To Be Announced					To Be Announced				
29 TFC	(5:50) Bids Si Mister, Bids Si Mister	Insider	In Private Beauties enjoy passion.		Baiting America (In Tagalog)	Good Morning Kris	(4:40) Masayang Tanghal Bayan				(1:10) Sarah Tennison	(4:40) Mangar Ka Princess
30 CNN+	Larry King Live (CC)	CNN World News	•World Sport	Business International	Asia Tonight	Biz Asia	CNN World News	World Sport	Biz Asia	The Music Room		
31 GOLF	•European PGA Golf Marian Irish Open — First Round, From Droghda, Ireland.				•Golf Channel Academy	•Golf Central	•Golf Central	•Golf Central	•Golf Central	•Golf Central	•Golf Central	•Golf Central
32 TLC	Clean Sweep "The Factory's" A cou- ple's home is overrun with their children's toys. (CC)	In a Fix "Romantic Gardener" Marriage proposals and improvements. (CC)	While You Were Out "Toronto: In- donesia Winter Garden" Apprentice find back and garden redesign.		While You Were Out Living room. (N) (CC)	What Not to Wear "Ken" A new hus- band and father. (CC)	While You Were Out "Toronto: In- donesia Winter Garden" Apprentice find back and garden redesign.					
34 TOON	Samurai Jack	Dexter's Labora- tory	Courage the Cow- ardly Dog	Teen Titans	Powerpuff Girls	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon shorts.	2 Stupid Dogs	I Am Weasel	Sheep in the Big City	Detective Squad	
35 ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter discovers jungle endangering animals suffering from.	The Planet's Fun- nest Animals	The Planet's Fun- nest Animals		Unexplained, Unexplored (N)	Born Different Humans intervene in animal breeding.	Animal Cops Detroit "A Real Champ" Dog with a charm em- bedded in its neck. reasons for complaint. (CC)	Unexplained, Unexplored				
36 COM	Late Night John McEnroe; Sting. (CC)	The Daily Show Adam Sandler. (CC) (DVS)	Mad TV "My Gay Dad" "Fired Up" "Cops" (CC)	The Graham Norton Effect (CC)	Wanda Sykes: Tongue Untied (CC)	Comedy Central Presenta Com- edy Central Presenta Eddie Murphy. (CC)	Comedy Central Presenta Com- edy Central Presenta Eddie Murphy. (CC)	Comedy Central Presenta Com- edy Central Presenta Eddie Murphy. (CC)	Comedy Central Presenta Com- edy Central Presenta Eddie Murphy. (CC)	Comedy Central Presenta Com- edy Central Presenta Eddie Murphy. (CC)	Comedy Central Presenta Com- edy Central Presenta Eddie Murphy. (CC)	Comedy Central Presenta Com- edy Central Presenta Eddie Murphy. (CC)
40 NGC+	Condition Black Surfers brave some of the biggest waves in history.	World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)	Planet Wild	Search for the First Dog: A Quest to Find Our Original Best Friend	Snake Wonders The deadliest creatures of the wild. (CC)	Chasing Time Haysa laugh laugh.	Fighters: Fighting Back The fight to save tigers across Asia.	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for the Boy"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for the Boy"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for the Boy"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for the Boy"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation "Bully for the Boy"
42 SPIKE	Real TV	Real TV	World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)	Star Trek: The Next Generation "Hol- low Pursuits" (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "Emis- sary" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "Emis- sary" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "Emis- sary" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "Emis- sary" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "Emis- sary" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "Emis- sary" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "Emis- sary" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "Emis- sary" (Part 2 of 2) (CC)
43 FOX	Fame (CC)	Blind Date Young men date older men. (N) (CC)	Blind Date Acting Shows: Reality show. (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show: Reality show. (CC)	Method & Red Show: Reality show. (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show: Reality show. (CC)	Method & Red Show: Reality show. (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show: Reality show. (CC)	Method & Red Show: Reality show. (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show: Reality show. (CC)	Method & Red Show: Reality show. (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show: Reality show. (CC)
44 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live	BET: Com- munity	BET: Com- munity	Movie	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.
45 COURT	Hollywood Heat	Body of Evidence: From the Case Files	Cops Follows live cops at work and at home. (CC)	Cops Follows live cops at work and at home. (CC)	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.	Forensic Files Killer nabbed in double murder.
48 STR-UL	Baywatch (CC)	The Simpsons (CC)	Cheers (CC)	Star News Focus	Just Shoot Me Asia	Wrestling	I Dare You: The Ultimate Challenge (CC)	Nash Bridges (CC)	Merge (CC)			
50 LIFE	The Golden Girls Blanche sees stranded daughter.	Head 2 Toe Surfer look updated. (CC)	Merge College sweethearts. (N) (CC)	• • • "A Kiss Before Dying" (1991, Suspense) Matt Dillon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck. A young Boston man must deal with his genius and emotions.	• • • "Good Will Hunting" (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck. A young Boston man must deal with his genius and emotions.	• • • "Good Will Hunting" (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck. A young Boston man must deal with his genius and emotions.	• • • "Good Will Hunting" (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck. A young Boston man must deal with his genius and emotions.	• • • "Good Will Hunting" (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck. A young Boston man must deal with his genius and emotions.	• • • "Good Will Hunting" (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck. A young Boston man must deal with his genius and emotions.	• • • "Good Will Hunting" (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck. A young Boston man must deal with his genius and emotions.	• • • "Good Will Hunting" (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck. A young Boston man must deal with his genius and emotions.	• • • "Good Will Hunting" (1997, Drama) Matt Damon, Robin Williams, Ben Affleck. A young Boston man must deal with his genius and emotions.
51 ABC/AF	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)	Full House Maxwell (twins) Joey's plans. (CC)
53 HIST	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.	Secret Passages "Underground Gardens" A hidden passage in a New York City building.
57 STR-UL	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.	(5:30) • • "Happy New Year" (2001, Mys- tery) Ken Gifford. A mystery.
58 ADV 1	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.	(5:30) The Dead Zone "The Hunt" The CIA enlists Johnny to help track down al- Qaida master Osama bin Laden.
59 MTV	Road Rules "Ex- treme: Chie" (CC)	Road Rules "Ex- treme: Chie" (CC)	Direct Effect	True Life "Surviving High School" Students attend different schools.	True Life "Surviving High School" Students attend different schools.	True Life "Surviving High School" Students attend different schools.	True Life "Surviving High School" Students attend different schools.	True Life "Surviving High School" Students attend different schools.	True Life "Surviving High School" Students attend different schools.	True Life "Surviving High School" Students attend different schools.	True Life "Surviving High School" Students attend different schools.	True Life "Surviving High School" Students attend different schools.
60 NICK	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Rugrats Angelica makes Santa cut. (E) (CC)	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	Scaredy Camp	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Zim	Rugrats Angelica makes Santa cut. (E) (CC)	The Fairly Odd- Parents (CC)

JAPAN TV

Morning

7:30 Disney (12)

Evening

5:50 News (6)

6:00 Japan

6:05 Japan

6:10 Japan

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JAPAN TV-B57

Morning

7:30 News

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JAPAN TV-B511

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Series show how GIs are living

Stars and Stripes' survey of U.S. troops in Iraq ("Ground Truth," Oct. 16-22) is awesome journalism. As an Army enlisted sergeant, I was interested in the GIs' reports on their living conditions.

We never got to call home for the year, so the complaints about poor phone or Internet service seemed weak. I think we got to shower more, and that is big for morale, cleanliness and keeping skin diseases down. There was no mention of drinking beer or chasing local women, so I guess we had the edge there in Vietnam. I ran into an Iraq MP veteran at a Veterans for Kerry event, and I toasted him with a beer because I thought he had none in Iraq. He said that the MPs would confiscate coats of Corona from Iraqi motorists, which went to the MPs—so at least some GIs are getting cool brew.

As for bunking, you can live on a mat with a sleeping bag for a year if you are a young buckaroo, and using a slit latrine won't kill you. The lack of air conditioning in the desert summer probably would be the worst thing.

I think what stands out the most from the articles is the stark difference between the living conditions of the headquarters penguins (you know who you are!) and the troops in the field. The troops on the line

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance to the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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need the good billets or, at least, they need to know that the generals aren't kicking back in air-conditioned palaces.

But, gee, I seem to remember the brass living it up in Saigon while we were slopping through the monsoon eating crap, so maybe it's the same old story. I hope all of

our troops get home soon, safe and sound.

Tom Harriman

Veterans for Peace

Sebastopol, Calif.

Beware, pork is in many foods

I am in the 118th Medical Battalion at Logistics Support Area Anacapa, Iraq, and work with local nationals a great deal. I've also been on three Medical Civilian Action programs (MEDCAPS). In talking with others who also have this job, I've realized that all we reward local nationals for doing a good job by giving them various gifts, including food and candy. My concern, being a Muslim myself, is to educate our troops on key words that identify a product containing pork.

These words are: "Gelatin" (except if there is a letter "K" with a circle around it on the package); the word "shortening" by itself (if it says vegetable shortening it is OK for them to consume); and "lard."

I understand that being deployed to Iraq is probably the first time most troops have been around Muslims or exposed to Islam. Troops in my unit are surprised when I point out the different types of food and candy that contain pork. I think an article would educate many and help efforts to respect the beliefs of the Muslims in the Middle East.

Sgt. Tanya Abdul-Karim Williams

Logistical Support Area Anacapa, Iraq

Critics all pumped up about nothing

Here me now and believe me later, "The Governor" should get a side.

Democratic voters in California are all hepped up over weekend remarks by Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who called some state lawmakers "giry men."

First of all, as someone who's met lots of state lawmakers over the years, I can attest to the accuracy of the governor's characterization.

The Pennsylvania Girtyman Assembly, for example, just adopted the nation's largest expansion of gambling—a dubious venture under the best of management—to fund things for which it didn't have the guts to raise taxes or cut spending.

Second, the governor's comments are more fun than foul. The wrath of Arnold was brought on by lawmakers he says are delaying his state budget. (Can you imagine a legislature delaying a budget?) "If they don't have the guts to come up here in front of you and say, 'I don't want to represent you,' I want to represent those special interests, the unions, the talk lawyers' ... if they



SACRAMENTO (CALIF.) BEE/AP

California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger speaks during a rally in Stockton, Calif., Sunday, a day after he described state legislators who won't act quickly on his budget proposal as "giry men."

don't have the guts, I call them giry men," the governor said. (Can you imagine legislators catering to unions or talk lawyers?)

Predictably, a few of California's finest spewed politically correct nonsense. Democratic Los Angeles state Sen. Sheila Kuehl, a member of California's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Caucus (ya gotta love that state!), called the comments "blatant homophobic."

The caucus' chairman, Democratic San Francisco Assemblyman Mark Leno, labeled them "anti-gay."

Politicians do say anti-gay things. But

"giry men" is a laugh-line on an old "Saturday Night Live" skit in which "cousins" of Arnold named Hans and Franz speak with his accent, run a bodybuilding show, "Pumping Up With Hans & Franz," and refer to anyone of less-than-superior "pumpitude" as "giry men."

Schwarzenegger, before he was governor, once appeared with the two, played by comic actors Kevin Nealon and Dana Carvey, in a pump-up skit opening a "Saturday Night Live" broadcast.

In the skit, Arnold actually says "giry man," ironically, imitating actors who are imitating him. Now he's just recasting old roles and spouting old lines, not unlike a previous California governor.

But, look, the bit, the line, the whole routine has not changed to go with gender preference. Not one thing. It's a sarcastic slam at Arnold and others who worship development of their own bodies.

No one ever accused Hans and Franz of being homophobic or sexist or anything but funny. Same should apply here. Critics just need to chill.

Plus, Schwarzenegger gets generally good marks as governor. He gets his own postage stamp in his native Austria next week this fall, U.S. and Austrian flags. He speaks at the Republican National Convention in New York next month.

So, like him or not, giry man or not, just remember, he'll be "hairy."

John Baer is a Philadelphia Daily News columnist.

Doonesbury

MR. MURDOCH, THERE SEEMS TO BE GROWING EVIDENCE THAT EXPOSURE TO FOX NEWS MAKES YOU UNAPPROVED...



FOR INSTANCE, ONE STUDY FOUND THAT FOX VIEWERS WERE THREE TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BELIEVE WINDS HAD BEEN FOUND ON VIEWERS OF PBS.



DOESN'T IT BOTHER YOU THAT YOU'RE ACTUALLY MAKING YOUR VIEWERS STRIPPER?



NO, I'M NOT REPORTING THAT SIDE.



BY GARRY TRUDEAU

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OPINION

Defining the enemy important in terror war

BY LEE H. HAMILTON

N public policy can succeed in a democracy without broad and sustained public understanding and support. All Americans — and policy-makers — must heed this truth as we combat terrorism in the decades to come.

Since 9/11, words such as "Quids" and "weapons of mass destruction" are heard at the local coffee shop. Shelves of books have appeared on terrorism, U.S. foreign policy and Islam. New security procedures are appearing everywhere. From the airport terminal to the ballpark. Voters indicate they want counterterrorism plans as much as health-care plans.

We're still figuring out how to act abroad, organize our government, set priorities and defend our communities. We have taken initial steps, but we are in for a marathon, not unlike the challenge facing Americans on the brink of the Cold War. Now, as then, success depends upon developing and sustaining policies grounded in the understanding, support and resolve of the American public.

To begin with, Americans must continue to acquaint themselves with the Islamic world. Specifically, we need a pool of experts and diplomats who speak certain languages, and comprehend diverse and far-flung cultures.

More broadly, Americans need to understand who the enemy is and why they hate us, while understanding that many Muslims resent U.S. policies but reject terrorism. The more we grasp the distinctions between these groups, the more capable we will be in

forging policies that enlist the support of moderate Muslims while isolating radicals and terrorists.

Right now, terrorists exploit the huge gap in understanding between the United States and the world's Muslims. No silver bullet can close that gap.

What can be the willingness of the American people to project and support a vision of opportunity — economic, educational and political — to people in distant lands, while vigorously defending our interests and security.

We cannot wish anti-Americanism away, nor can we withdraw from the world, or succeed through policies that generate more radicals and terrorists. This means thinking about how we can craft and communicate policies that represent both our interests and our values in a durable manner.

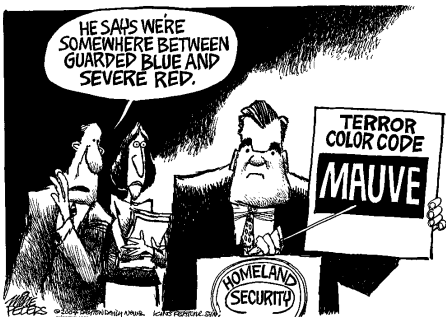
To succeed, we must determine whether institutions and norms designed in the last century are prepared to tackle new challenges.

For instance, the situations in Afghanistan and Iraq raise questions about whether we want a military that manages peace as well as it wages war.

The failures to foresee 9/11 and evaluate Iraq's WMD shed disturbing light on how our intelligence agencies are structured and function. The ease with which terrorists crossed our borders and exploited our open society challenges us to think about how we issue documents such as a passport or driver's license.

Public awareness can start even closer to home, far from the international or national debate. Is your local hospital equipped to handle an anthrax attack? Are your emergency responders prepared? Is the chemical plant on the edge of town secure?

Dealing with these questions does not make you a doomsayer. On the contrary, your efforts can have complementary bene-



fits such as bolstering the public health system or better securing dangerous infrastructure.

What is distinct about the struggle against terrorism is that individual citizens can make an extraordinary difference. These aren't just issues for study and debate.

Think of the passenger and flight attendant who found it odd that Richard Reid, the alleged "shoe bomber," was lighting a match near his shoe, and took action. We are in a struggle that depends upon individual action as much as public policy.

Government leaders must serve as best representatives of the people's interests in Washington and educators of the constituents back home. Government works best

when it reflects the will of an informed and engaged public.

The panic and confusion that have swirled around many policy choices in the struggle against terrorism indicate that we can do better in putting partisan politics aside to build a consensus that is informed, effective and lasting.

We are all adapting to new forms of risk. Finding our way through this challenge will be tough. Only by tapping the idealism, innovation and toughness of the American people can we sustain successful policies. Put me down on the side of the optimists.

Lee H. Hamilton, an Indiana Democrat, is vice chairman of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Against the United States (the 9/11 commission), the former chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the current director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

So far, Kerry tumbles when push comes to shove

BY MICHAEL GOODWIN

New York Daily News

John Kerry is about to be crowned King of all Democrats and he's got at least a 50-50 shot at being the 41st president of the United States. Hillary Clinton is but one of 100 senators. Any clash between the two should thus be a mismatch — and it was. Kerry never stood a chance.

If you're screaming at home, that's Clinton I, Kerry II. What's amazing about the spat over whether Hillary would get a prime-time convention speech was how quickly Kerry retreated. No sooner had his aides insulted Clinton by saying, first, she hadn't asked for a role and second, the convention was about the "future" than they caved and asked her to speak. Begged would be more accurate.

Kerry's the king all right, but Clinton's the unchallenged Queen of Democrats — and the King better not forget it again.

Her supporters rejoiced at her triumph, but Republicans must be delighted, too, for the embarrassing incident reveals a weak spot in the Democratic nominee. John Kerry is a man who can be rolled. Quickly and often.

His surrender to Clinton was one of three cases in just a week where Kerry took a stand, then immediately folded his cards when challenged...

The first case involved the July 8 Bush-bash at Radio City Music Hall. A day after he praised Whoopi Goldberg and others as representing the "heart and soul of America," Kerry wilted in the face of media

and GOP heat. Suddenly, he found Goldberg's lewd act inappropriate.

And on the same day as the Hillary fold, Kerry backed away from some of his own TV ads when black officials called them "laxtender."

Only a week after touting the \$2 billion buy as the largest ever aimed at black voters, Kerry agreed to scrap the ads. Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, said Kerry flubbed by not showing the ads to the caucus first. "It was corrected," Cummings said as Kerry agreed to the changes the caucus wanted.

Final score: Critics 3, Kerry 0. None of these incidents is fatal at this early stage, and Dem partisans will even

argue they show a nuanced thinker willing to listen and change his mind...

But it's also true that the three incidents play into the GOP attack machine that Kerry is a flip-flopper who can't be trusted. Even a top Dem stalwart conceded there are doubts about Kerry's "internal gyroscope."

Such doubts worry this Kerry supporter because of how he views the election landscape... To win, my Democratic sage says, Kerry must meet two tests: "He must convince people that he has a strong foreign policy, and he must show middle-class families that he cares about them and understands their problems."

He's right, but here's a third challenge. Kerry needs a Sister Souljah moment.

It was 12 years ago, just before his own crowning convention, that Bill Clinton demonstrated strength and independence by scolding the young black rap singer. She had defended Los Angeles riots by saying, "If black people kill black people every day, why not have a week and kill white people."

Clinton not only said the comments reflected "hatred," he did so as Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition. Sister Souljah then called Clinton "racist," and Jackson was furious at him, too. But Clinton stood his ground, and the incident established his willingness to say no and risk offending a key party voting bloc.

Kerry has not yet taken such a risk. When he does, he'll be a stronger, more worthy candidate for the Oval Office.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



A cheesy birthday

IN MARYVILLE — Michael P. Monn's birthday celebration went a little awry when he was arrested while drunk, nude and covered with nacho cheese.

Monn was detained early Sunday as he ran toward a Jeep in the parking lot outside a swimming pool snack bar. According to police, he was stark naked and was carrying a box of snacks and a container of nacho cheese.

Monn was charged with burglary, theft of less than \$500, vandalism less than \$500 and public intoxication and was cited for indecent exposure. He was held at the Blount County Jail in lieu of a \$9,300 bond.

It was Monn's 23rd birthday.

Fake poster, real lawsuit

ME BANGOR — A fake wanted poster the owner of an Etna variety store displayed on his cash register as a practical joke has triggered a defamation lawsuit.

Brad Graves sued Ronald Hicks last week in Penobscot County Superior Court, claiming that Hicks damaged his reputation by displaying the poster that labeled him a "terrorist."

Hicks' lawyer characterized the lawsuit as "ridiculous," saying the poster was created as a harmless joke by his client and was aimed at a frequent customer whom he regarded as a friend.

The poster included a photograph of Graves with the words "Mohammed Abdul Graves, suspected leader of the outlaw organization Extreme Activist Terrorism Militia of Etna" or "EATME" under his picture, according to court documents.

And a cherry on top

MI JACKSON — A robbery attempt at an ice cream store resulted in a not-so-sweet ending for a would-be thief who authorities say knocked over a large container of strawberry syrup and dropped his wallet.

According to police, the 24-year-old man apparently slipped in the goo during the break-in early Monday.

A deputy responding to an alarm after midnight at TJ's Dairy Freeze in Jackson, about 90 miles west of Detroit, located the wallet and found a container of syrup spilled on the floor. It was unclear if anything was taken.

The deputy used the identification card in the wallet to find and arrest the suspect on a charge of breaking and entering.

Constable killed

NY OAK BEACH — A Babylon Bay Town constable was shot to death by a man he tried to pull over for drunken driving, police said. The gunman was later shot to death by police responding to the scene.

A 41-year-old constable, Richard Brooks, 44, was a retired New York City police officer who worked one day a week as a constable for the town. He was patrolling the quiet seaside community of Oak Beach at about 3 p.m. Friday when he tried to pull over James Cawson on the Robert Moses Causeway, Suffolk County police said.

Wilson, 42, sped to his home with Brooks in pursuit, police said. He went inside his house, grabbed a



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

shotgun, and fired at Brooks from a second-story window, said Suffolk County Police Lt. Jack Fitzpatrick. Wilson then drove his car over Brooks, who had been shot at least once in the chest and died at the scene, police said.

Officers arrived at the scene and confronted Wilson in his car nearby. Police said they shot him when he flashed his shotgun. Wilson died at the hospital.

How many Big Macs?

WI FOND DU LAC — Chalk up another meaty milestone for Don Gorske.

The Fond du Lac man downed his 20,000th Big Mac sandwich Monday, while surrounded by spectators at a local McDonald's restaurant.

He already had made the "Guinness World Records" book for eating a record number of Big Macs before he hit number 19,000 in March 2003.

He has been eating the fast food sandwiches since 1972 at a rate of at least one a day, and said he has eaten a Big Mac from every state in the union.

Still, the 6-foot Gorske has maintained his weight at about 170 pounds.

No Pepsi dumping

NY SYRACUSE — The Pepsi Bottling Group will pay nearly \$3 million in fines and cleanup costs for illegally dumping industrial waste into a creek that empties into Onondaga Lake, state and local officials said last week.



Balloons abound

Air balloons sail over Angel Fire, N.M., during the Wings Over Angel Fire Balloon and Air show.

Under the settlement, the company will pay \$2.78 million to help pay for Onondaga Lake's reclamation projects, said Assistant Onondaga County District Attorney Paul Berry.

The company also will pay \$200,000 in fines for its illegal dumping activities in suburban Syracuse, as well as to settle charges in Utica and Chesterfield, said state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer.

According to Berry, Pepsi admitted that it disposed of soft drink syrup mix and other waste soda products into Ley Creek, a tributary of Onondaga Lake, without a permit. The syrup has a high sugar content and the discarded waste has the potential to remove and dissolve oxygen from the water, affecting fish and plant life, said Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Erin Crotty.

Shelter replaces tavern

NE OMAHA — A local homeless shelter has purchased a neighboring bar and plans to build something oddly appropriate where the old tavern once stands: a drug and alcohol treatment center.

South Omaha's Stephen Center shelter bought the South Seven bar this month, said Del Bomberger, executive director of the shelter. He said the bar will be knocked down to make room for a new residential treatment center.

Bomberger said the bar had long been a problem for the shelter, because many of the shelter's patrons had drinking and drug problems and were able to get alcohol and drugs in and around the tavern.

The irony of building a treatment center on land where a bar once stood was not lost on Bomberger.

"It's really kind of a fun conversation," he said.

Boy dies in hot SUV

FL BOCA RATON — A 3-year-old boy died when his dentist father left him inside a sport utility vehicle for three hours, officials said.

Dr. Dennis F. Sierra took his son Andres to work with him last Thursday and left the boy in the car, intending to be in the office for only a short time. Palm Beach County sheriff's spokeswoman Diane Carhart said.

A relative called Sierra about three hours later to ask about the boy, and the father and office employees rushed to the car to find Andres was not breathing.

The boy died about an hour later at West Boca Medical Center. It was not immediately known if any charges would be filed.

Sierra was not arrested, said his lawyer, Michael Salnick.

Can't bear the fans

WI STEVENS POINT — When a black bear wandered into the city and climbed up a tree, residents here didn't panic or rush away. In fact, they did the opposite.

A crowd of screaming, well-wishers gathered underneath the tree, causing the panicked animal to climb farther up and making the limbs wobble.

After waiting 16 hours, a Wildlife Services employee fired two tranquilizers into the 140-pound animal Saturday evening.

Authorities then dragged the bear onto a forklift and put it into a cage, to the cheers of about 50 onlookers.



On the ceiling

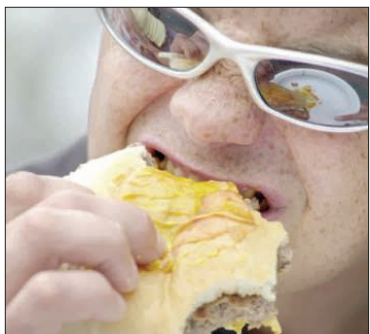
at Millennium Park in Chicago.

Visitors take photographs of and look at reflections in the "Cloud Gate" sculpture



Tangled web

The work of a spider is highlighted by the morning sun as it shines through drops of dew on a farm fence near Glencoe, Ky.



Seriously hungry

Peter Jay sinks his teeth into an original Menches Brothers hamburger at the 19th annual Burger Fest 2004 in Hamburg, N.Y.



After the storm

A rainbow can be seen behind the Stjordalen Lutheran Church in Reynolds, N.D., in rural Traill County after storms pounded the area.



Fields of gold

The immature heads of wheat sway in the gentle breeze as the young field of small grain crop grows next to an old barn south of Huff, N.D.



Riders, taking part in the Sixth annual Cycling the Erie Canal bike tour, head down a hill along the Erie Canal in Niskayuna, N.Y.



Just playing around

Themí Kakias, left, and George Karras, of the Greek Tycoons, joke around during a performance as they go to sit on the lap of Dessine Friconi during the 37th Annual Middletown Greek Festival at Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Middletown, Ohio.

Child falls nine stories

NY POUGHKEEPSIE — A 2-year-old boy died July 14, two days after falling 81 feet from a window.

Police believe the boy's mother was asleep when he fell from the ninth story of a Poughkeepsie apartment building while playing with his siblings. Police believe the death was accidental, but they are continuing to investigate. They did not release the name of the child.

Some tenants and city leaders are calling for mandatory window guards.

No idle trucks

SC COLUMBIA — In an effort to reduce air pollution from idling diesel trucks, South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia plan to offer 150 spaces at Interstate 85 truck stops where truckers can cut their engines and plug in.

The spaces will have a large hose that truckers can connect to their windows. Inside the hose is a system with a heating and air conditioning unit, several outlets and Internet access through a touch-screen computer.

Truckers pay a fee — about \$1.25 an hour — for the services. But they can sleep in their trucks without running the engines.

Allegations may be false

TX SAN ANTONIO — A 17-year-old girl has admitted she told a cellmate that she made up allegations that she had sex with a judge for money as a minor.

Her admission could bring Social Security judge Forrest Elmo Stewart's house arrest to an end.

The girl's testimony made last week during an examining trial. Stewart, 77, has been charged with indecency with a child by sexual contact. He was arrested in April.

The girl has been in jail for two months on burglary charges.

Two dogs euthanized

ME AUGUSTA — Two look-alike wolf-hybrid dogs from the same litter, one of which bit a woman in the leg, have been euthanized following a two-hour hearing in District Court.

The 18-month-old dogs, a male and female, had been placed in quarantine last week after one of them bit Laura Charest of Sidney, who was unable to determine which was the attacker.

Judge Michael Westcott last week ordered both dogs, Polar Bear and Foxy Lady, put down and tested for rabies.

The lawyer representing the dogs' owner, Helen Minoty, sought to have them spared, saying it would be wrong to kill both animals when only one bit Charest.

Juveniles stealing cars

DC WASHINGTON — Facing a growing outcry from the public to put a stop to juvenile car thefts, officials in the nation's capital are vowing to try to solve the problem.

"These are not 'kiddie' car thieves out for a night of fun. These are acts of reckless violence," Mayor Anthony A. Williams said at a public forum Monday night in one

of the hardest hit neighborhoods. In the past three weeks, three people have been killed in collisions involving vehicles allegedly stolen by minors.

Left in the dark

AZ PHOENIX — A fire at an electrical substation early Tuesday left about 50,000 northwest Phoenix homes and businesses without power. It was the second substitution fire in the area in two weeks.

All but 13,000 homes and businesses had power restored within two hours of the 2:30 a.m. fire, said Damon Gross, spokesman for Arizona Public Service Co. The fire damaged one of three transformers at a substation, he said.

The cause of the fire was under investigation, Gross said.

Mugged and dragged

FL JACKSONVILLE — A woman was severely beaten by two men who grabbed her purse and then dragged her 60 feet down a street in a sport utility vehicle before running her over, officials said. "She was fighting to get away from them," said police spokesman Ken Jefferson. "Her head hit the pavement."

The woman remained in critical condition.

Kevin Jerome Miller, 27, turned himself in hours after the attack. He was charged with aggravated battery. Police have not arrested the second man.

Theft of JFK items

NY NEW YORK — A warehouse worker charged with stealing personal items that belonged to the late John F. Kennedy Jr. reportedly pleaded guilty to misdemeanor larceny and received a conditional discharge.

The worker, Patrick Gallagher, entered the plea in Manhattan criminal court last week and was fined \$1,000. The New York Times and the New York Post reported.

Prosecutors said Gallagher, a worker for Sotheby's, stole nearly three dozen items, including a 1963 Father's Day card to President Kennedy from his son. He allegedly sold the stored belongings for \$5,000 to pay a debt to a bookie.

Bias settlement checks

TX TULIA — Tulia residents wrongly charged and jailed in falsified drug cases five years ago began getting checks from a \$6 million settlement stemming from a lawsuit claiming the arrests were racially motivated.

Retired Judge Ron Chapman, who decided how the settlement would be divided among the 45 defendants, said distribution of the checks began last week. The defendants will share \$4 million, while some of their attorneys will receive \$2 million.

Civil rights groups claimed the drug cases were racially motivated because 39 of the 46 arrested or charged in the 18-month drug operation were black. Tom Coleman, the former undercover agent who made the arrests, is white.

Gov. Rick Perry granted pardons last year to 35 defendants in Tulia, a small farming and ranching community of about 5,000 between Amarillo and Lubbock.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Horoscope

The Libra moon emphasizes connection, and the Leo sun puts a passionate bent on this usually friendly lunar influence. We tie up a bit overboard in expressing our affection, which could produce some rather humorous results. This is a truly romantic night when the bubbly fun of friendship quickly melts into the dizzying spell of infatuation.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(July 23). You're driven this year! You know what you want, and you get it. A successful business project gets you off to a fantastic start. Job offers come your way as a result. Singles enjoy plenty of romantic prospects for summer fun but could get serious with one love in November. A windfall allows you to pay a debt or fulfill an obligation in September.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Friends need your support more than your advice. Think before you throw in your two cents. There's the "truth," and then, there's the "stone-cold truth." The former will keep conditions stable, and the latter could cause a rift.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Some of your faults you are loathe to give up. "But they define me!" you cry. There is some truth to this, but your challenge is to broaden your view of yourself. Being free of bad habits doesn't necessarily mean being boring.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Anyone you've had a disagreement with can now be re-approached to happy results. People really do want to work together for the greater good — they just have different definitions of what that might be.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Take caution of mental clutter. Those in the yoga practice would call it "monkey mind." If you continue to listen, you'll feel as though your subconscious thoughts rule you, but indeed, there's a higher guide. Be quiet, and listen.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Allow yourself to be pleased by your own progress, even if financially you

have nothing to show for it. Be patient; validation in the way of dollar signs comes soon. Friendship turns competitive, which is not necessarily a bad thing.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Trust intuition over reason as you consider your career alternatives. You feel ready to move up, but if you want to be king or queen of the castle, you might have to dethrone someone. Choose your companions well.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Skimming the surface won't do. Dig deep, whether you're cleaning the garage, studying or trying to figure out what's on your loved one's mind. Let your bottomless curiosity drive you to more profound levels of understanding.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Streamline your life. Get rid of what you don't use. This is not a good day to buy a pet. If you keep it simple, you'll find yourself emotional and financially ready for any escape, which is good because travel may pop up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Use influence wisely; others are following your example rather than your orders. Don't acquiesce to the demands of others or try to cover for a person who won't do his or her share. Say what is on your mind.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

There's nothing more irritating to you than seeing a problem you thought you had licked return to your realm in nearly the same form. There are people around you who don't learn and wind up involving you in their mistakes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Your "garden" is blossoming with the seeds you sowed months ago. Some of this growth is unexpectedly quick, and you may have to rush and get ready to harvest the fruits of your labor.

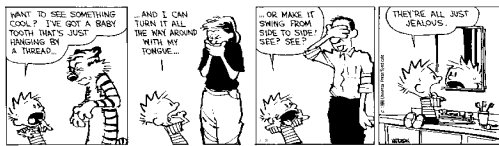
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Attempting to be at the disadvantages to everyone puts you at a disadvantage, so stay focused on what you want. Take advantage of the bounty bestowed on you! Enjoy the perks of your job for all they're worth.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Kilson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



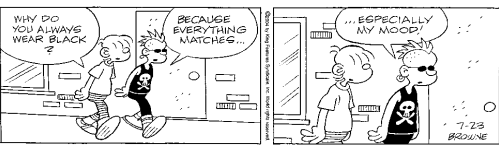
Zits



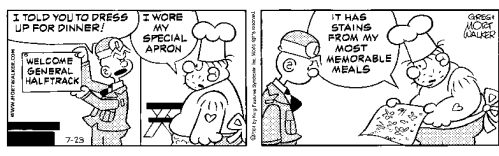
Cathy



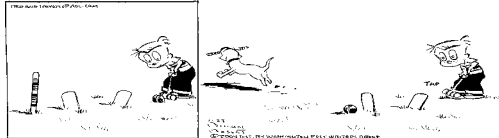
Hi and Lois



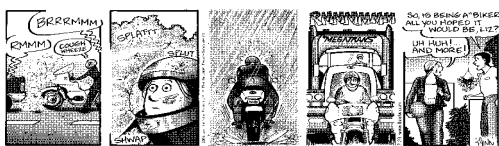
Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



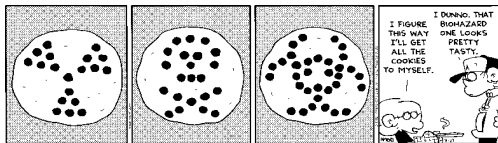
Better or Worse



Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



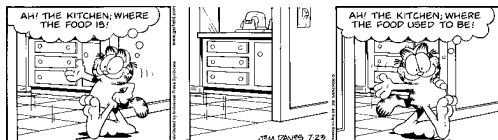
Dilbert



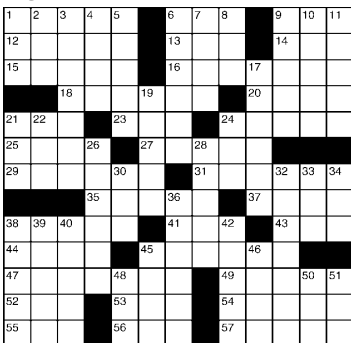
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Likewise
6 River structure
9 Show grief
12 Not even remotely
13 Historic time
14 Cretan mountain
15 Ear-related
16 Go — (intermediary)
18 One-name folksinger
20 Really eager
21 Big bird
23 Excessively
24 Secluded valleys
25 Cabin components
27 Follow
29 Las Vegas hotel-casino
31 Boutonniere, basically
35 African grassland
37 Use a paper towel
38 Mocked
41 Opponent of 55-Across
43 Worker's burden
44 — friendly
45 Improve
47 Go — (disappear)
49 "Let's Make a Deal" choices
52 Cudgel
53 Zlich

Down

- 54 Comic Anderson
55 Lennon's lady
56 White House monogram
57 John of rock
22 Erstwhile New Zealander
24 Hodges of baseball
26 Frugal folks
28 Chasing
30 Roulette bet
32 Go — (forgo)
33 Anti-pollution org.
34 Mardi Gras VIP
36 Hang loosely
38 Super size
39 Flu variety
40 Marina alternative
42 Edge along slowly
45 Oklahoma city
46 "Radi"
48 Neither Rep. or Dem.
50 Carnival setting
51 Japanese cuisine

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-23

CRYPTOQUIP

D F I K K R F Q X R I T D Z G J
O N E E N W I E E Q J K C R B I O J D R P
O R T K N P X ' F K C Q F D B Q P J
N W D Z F G R J

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN THE FEMALE PLUMBER REALLY FOULED UP MY BATHROOM PIPES, I THREATENED TO SEWER.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals P

Find agreeable place for ashes

Dear Abby: My husband, "Ned," lost his mother suddenly at the age of 54. Her wishes were to be cremated and have her remains scattered in the Arizona desert. It hasn't happened yet.

Her cremains started out on the bookcase headboard of our bed. I finally moved them to the living room in front of the fireplace. One day, I returned home from work and, once again, the cremains had been put back in our bedroom — this time on the nightstand next to our bed.

In addition, the cremains did not all fit into the box, so a second box was sent along with the urn. With time, the box has separated and started to leak.

I think it's unhealthy to continue to have the cremains in the house, and I also feel it's disrespectful to my mother-in-law. How can you be firm and loving at the same time?

—Woeiful in Indiana

Dear Abby



Dear Woeiful: It appears your husband is having a difficult time letting go. I recommend you sweep up the cremains that have leaked out of the box and place them in a baggie. When your husband is in a relaxed, and hopefully receptive, mood give it to him and tell him that his mother had asked that her cremains be scattered in Arizona — not the bedroom. If he can't bring himself to do that, perhaps he would be more comfortable by agreeing to keep them elsewhere than your bedroom. Your having moved them should have been hint enough that their presence made you uncomfortable.

DEAR ABBY: I am being married soon. My sister, "Alice," promised to help me with the last-minute details.

However, yesterday Alice called to inform me — with regrets — that she'll be on vacation with her husband at the time my

wedding is scheduled, so she won't be able to help me after all. I am upset to say the least. I have no bridesmaids to help me, and I was counting on her.

Alice is very sensitive, so I'm afraid to say anything to her. Am I wrong to be upset? What should I tell my friends when they ask about her? Is there anything I can say to my sister or my guests that will go over well?

—Hurt in Houston

Dear Hurt: Tell your "sensitive" sister that you are disappointed that she won't be there to share your happiness (it's the truth), and that she'll be missed (it's also true because her absence will be noticed), and that you'll manage without her (because you will).

Then ask a couple of close friends to help you. If the "last-minute details" are shared, they shouldn't be too much of a burden for anyone.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RAWLEY

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YARPT

REVABE

LAMDET

A: TO

Jumbles: COUPE BIPED ADJUST JABBER

Answer: Buying a new car left him — SCARED TO "DEBT"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arghin

The 890910 now have been DISCONTINUED



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Pushover parents must lay down law

Dear Annie: My father and his siblings inherited a summer beach house from their parents, and it always has been rented out seasonally. No profit has ever been made on the property. At best, it is a break-even investment.

A few years ago, my aunts and uncles wished to get out of the investment, and my parents bought their shares for fair market value.

Suddenly, everyone became emotional, discovering newfound love for the beach house. Since my parents became sole owners, the rest of the family seems to think they are entitled to use the cottage whenever they want. My cousins actually rented the place last year and left it more trashed than any rental client ever has. They even took some chimes my parents had hung on the porch.

My mother is infuriated by this, but she says nothing. If it were me, I would put my foot

Annie's Mailbox



down — enough is enough. This cottage causes my parents so much stress. How can they draw the line?

—Angry Niece in Wisconsin

Dear Niece: If your parents don't want to be taken advantage of, they need to remove the "Walk on Me" sign from their backs. Dad should inform his siblings that they must clean up after themselves or the cottage will no longer be available to them (Aunt Freebie included).

Also, we strongly recommend your parents do whatever is necessary to find other tenants who will rent the cottage, leaving it less available to accommodate the relatives. If your folks aren't willing to take these steps, there's not much you can do.

Dear Annie: My mom left me when I was 4 years old. Two years ago, my dad's girlfriend, "Shelly," moved in with us. Shelly has been in my life for five years and is like my actual mom now, because I know she's all ways here. She's the best.

I still call my mother from time to time, but no one else in the family speaks to her. The problem is, Shelly wants me to come to her with my problems, and I do, but I'm afraid if I keep speaking to my mother, it will push Shelly away and she might move out. No one wants that, and I'd be to blame. What should I do?

—Lost in Pennsylvania

Dear Lost: Whatever Shelly decides to do, it is NOT your fault. She should appreciate the closeness you have now and understand that you need a relationship with your mother as well. She should not feel threatened by it. Discuss your feelings with your father, and tell him we said he should back up you.

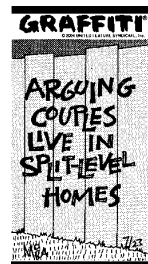
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie-mailbox@comcast.net or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



7-23
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"It'd be easier if they had escalators."



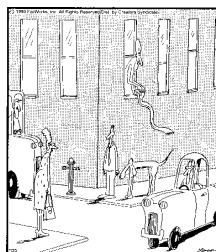
Dennis the Menace



"THE RANGER SAID NOT TO FEED THE BEARS, BUT THIS GUY'S FEEDIN' HIMSELF!"

© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Far Side Life: Not funny, but better for you.

Non Sequitur



200

1 year old.
bbed. No mat-
O. Call Jennifer
or email
t.net Pictures
quest.

Johnny Jump-
couple of time.
on, very clean
a good place
Call Jennifer at
or email
t.net

a - Fisher Price
for a baby to
pull up on, or
iddle and play.
ts and plays
\$45.00 asking
Tammy at
97875428.

Graco duobase. Taking an. \$50.00. Call

• Peg Perego
Bought in the
Navy blue color
• Infant carrier
• everything in
\$250.00 for all.
6 7 6 8 o r
mail.com
mattress, good
• Call Kathy at
ail willam4@k-

Blue and Boppy Pillows - Blue and Boppy Pillows, orange stars pattern. Call at 633-1253

• Graco Light-
double stroller.
teddy bear print
also a matching
crier, 3 position
and 3 easy
up, brand new,

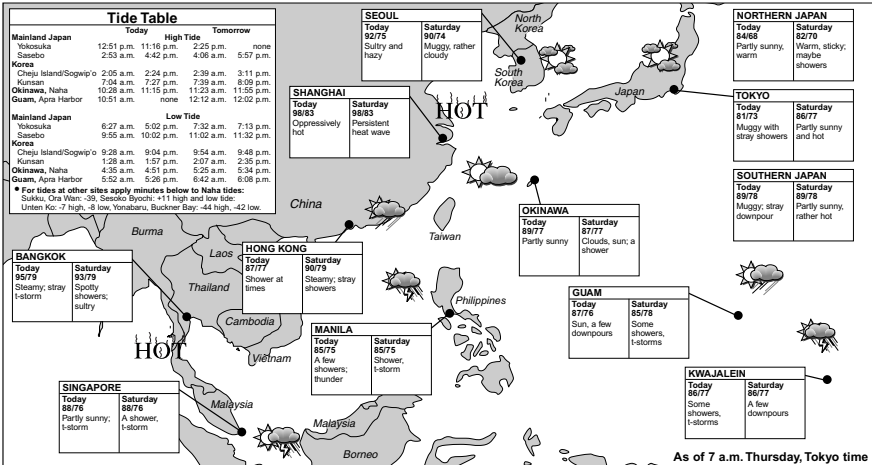
a - Jenny Lind
 ark wood stain.
 ny 633-1253 or
 il.ne.jp

wa - Kolcraft
 White bassinet
 baby to sleep
 E - mail
 eo.com

oy - Lamp for
 oy, almost new
 \$20.00 OBO.
 o or email
 ail.af.mil

The Pacific Forecast

All forecasts and maps provided by AccuWeather, Inc. © 2004
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As of 7 a.m. Thursday, Tokyo time

Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 77.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 86, low 74.

KADENA

Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 77.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 89, low 79.

SEKOU

Sunday: Thunderstorms, high 88, low 71.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 88, low 73.

MANILA

Sunday: Thunderstorms, high 87, low 75.
Monday: Thunderstorms, high 89, low 77.

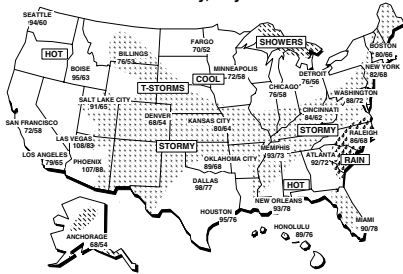
HAGATNA

Sunday: Showers, high 89, low 78.
Monday: Showers, high 89, low 78.

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	94/70	Los Angeles	87/67
Amarillo	89/65	Little Rock	95/72
Anchorage	60/56	Louisville	91/75
Ashville	87/62	Miami	91/76
Baltimore	90/70	Milwaukee	90/72
Birmingham	93/71	Nashville	92/72
Bismark	88/56	New York	88/74
Boise	93/62	Omaha	92/72
Boston	84/67	Orlando	93/74
Brownsville	98/78	Philadelphia	91/72
Buffalo	87/71	Phoenix	112/89
Burlington	88/67	Pittsburgh	86/70
Charleston, SC	93/73	Portland, OR	85/60
Charlotte	93/70	Portland, ME	82/61
Cleveland	89/74	Salt Lake City	92/67
Columbus, OH	88/72	St. Louis	97/79
Duluth	85/54	San Antonio	95/75
El Paso	96/74	San Diego	77/68
Hartford	91/64	San Juan	89/76
Helena	85/55	Tampa	89/76
Indianapolis	91/74	Tulsa	88/74
Jacksonville	94/70	Washington	90/73
Kansas City	93/74	Wichita	101/73

Friday, July 23



U.S. Extended Forecast

A period of hot weather will stretch across the Pacific Northwest Friday through Sunday with near-record highs expected. Showers and thunderstorms will continue across the Rockies, mainly during the afternoon and evening. A few late-afternoon and evening showers will develop across parts of Arizona, New Mexico and western Texas. On Friday, a cold front will push into the Deep South and will continue to move southward on Saturday, bringing showers and thunderstorms. These showers and thunderstorms will stretch from Texas and Oklahoma eastward to Georgia and Florida. High pressure will build into the Northeast and Great Lakes states, bringing a period of dry but cool weather with plenty of sunshine.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	95/79	Iwakuni	90/75
Beijing	96/77	Kadena AB	89/77
Camp Casey	90/75	Kunsan AB	90/77
Christchurch	45/29	Kwajalein	86/77
Diego Garcia	83/75	Manila	85/75
Hagatna	87/76	Misawa AB	81/71
Hanoi	82/73	Osan	91/75
Hong Kong	87/77	Perth	87/45
Honolulu	89/76	Pusan	87/78
		Sasebo NB	88/78
		Sapporo	84/68
		Seoul	92/75
		Shanghai	98/83
		Singapore	88/76
		Sydney	62/40
		Taipei	94/78
		Taipei	92/75
		Tokyo	81/73

Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	92/77	Budapest	88/66
Athens	91/73	Buenos Aires	63/50
Auckland	50/38	Cairo	101/70
Baghdad	107/78	Cancun	85/73
Barbados	89/73	Cape Town	57/36
Barcelona	87/75	Geneva	88/70
Berlin	62/62	Istanbul	83/63
Bermuda	85/74	Jerusalem	90/69
Brussels	78/54	Johannesburg	71/46
		Kabul	94/62
		Kiev	80/56
		Kuwait	113/82
		London	73/58
		Madrid	102/77
		Mexico City	72/55
		Montreal	76/58
		Mogadishu	83/71
		Moscow	77/54
		Nairobi	77/52
		New Delhi	102/88
		Oslo	68/51
		Paris	75/53
		Rio de Janeiro	66/55
		Stockholm	93/72
		St. Petersburg	74/55
		Taipei	92/75
		Tokyo	81/73
		Tulsa	88/74
		Warsaw	79/61



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SCOREBOARD

AFN schedule

Times listed are Japan and Korea Standard time. Guam is one hour ahead; Singapore, Hong Kong and Seoul are two hours ahead. Schedule subject to change without notice.

Television

AFN-Atlantic

FRI, July 23, at 8 a.m. — Pro baseball: Chicago White Sox vs. Cincinnati.

AFN-Sports

FRI, July 23, at 12 a.m. — Pro baseball: Tampa Bay vs. Minnesota.

FRI, July 23, at 9 a.m. — Women's pro basketball: Minnesota vs. New York.

FRI, July 23, at 11 a.m. — Pro baseball: Oakland vs. New York.

FRI, July 23, at 4 p.m. — Cycling: Tour de France, 18th stage.

FRI, July 23, at 7 p.m. — Pro baseball: Milwaukee vs. Atlanta.

SAT, July 24, at 8:30 a.m. — Cycling: Tour de France, 19th stage.

SAT, July 24, at 11 a.m. — Pro baseball: New York Yankees vs. Boston.

SAT, July 24, at 4 p.m. — Pro baseball: New York Yankees vs. N.Y. Mets.

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W L T Pts **GF** **GA**

MetStars 4 6 6 21 23 25

D.C. United 3 6 6 21 23 25

Columbus 3 6 6 21 23 25

New England 3 6 6 21 23 25

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Los Angeles 9 4 4 31 25 18

Kansas City 9 4 4 31 25 18

Colorado 9 4 4 31 25 18

Chivas 9 4 4 31 25 18

NOTES: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

Columbus at Dallas

Chicago at MetStars

D.C. United at Dallas

Los Angeles at Kansas City

New England at San Jose

Wednesday, July 28

MetStars at Kansas City

Chicago at Saturday, July 31

All-Star Game at Washington

Pro basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

W L T Pts **GF** **GA**

Indiana 12 10 545

Connecticut 12 10 545

New York 11 11 500

Detroit 11 11 500

Washington 12 10 465

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Los Angeles 12 7 350 115

Seattle 12 7 350 115

Minnesota 10 11 476

Sacramento 10 11 476

Houston 9 12 429

Phoenix 9 12 429

Wednesday's games

Connecticut at Detroit

Phoenix at San Antonio

San Antonio at Washington

Thursday's games

New York at Charlotte

Indiana at Seattle

Minnesota at Connecticut

Sacramento at Sacramento

Friday's games

Minnesota at Washington

Charlotte at Detroit

Houston at Los Angeles

Cycling

Tour de France

Wednesday, July 16

5.63-mile individual time trial

1. Lance Armstrong, United States, 55:08.45

2. Jan Ullrich, Germany, 56:01.1

3. Second behind.

4. Andreas Klöden, Germany, 56:01.1

5. Santos Azavedo, Portugal, 56:01.1

6. Giuseppe Guerini, Italy, 56:01.1

7. Vladimir Karpets, Russia, 56:01.1

8. Ivan Basso, Italy, Team CSC, 2:23.1

9. Second behind.

10. Jan Ullrich, Germany, 56:01.1

11. Carlos Sastre, Spain, Team CSC, 2:27.1

Overall Standings (after 15 stages)

1. Lance Armstrong, United States, 15 Post-Berry Road, 67 hours, 53 minutes, 24 seconds

2. Ivan Basso, Italy, Team CSC, 3 minutes, 56 seconds behind.

3. Andreas Klöden, Germany, 7 minutes, 50 seconds behind.

4. Jan Ullrich, Germany, 7:40 time, 7:55 behind.

5. Santos Azavedo, Portugal, 15 Post-Berry Road, 9:19.

Japan baseball

Central League

W L T Pts **GB**

Chunichi 43 31 1 371

Yomiuri 43 31 1 371

Hanjin 41 39 0 312

Yokohama 37 42 48 85

Hiroshima 35 42 48 85

Wednesday's games

Chunichi 5, Yomiuri 3

Hiroshima 5, Yakult 1

Hanjin 7, Yokohama 4

Pacific League

W L T Pts **GB**

Daiichi 53 34 1 369

Seibu 51 31 1 393

Marine 48 36 1 369

Kintetsu 38 48 1 459

Tokyo 38 48 1 459

Wednesday's games

Daiichi 6, Orix 9

Kintetsu 8, Lotte 4

Seibu 10, Nippon Ham 5

Golf

LPGA Evian Masters

Wednesday

At Domaine du Royal Club Evian

First Round

Yardage: 6,372 (Par: 73-36)

First Round

32-32-64-68

32-32-64-68

32-32-64-68

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32-32-64-68

TEXAS RANGERS

Placed RHP Joaquin Benoit on the bereavement list. Recalled RHP Benito Soto from Oklahoma City.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS

Placed RHP Roy Halladay on the bereavement list. Recalled RHP J. J. B. Rodriguez from the 15-day DL. Signed LHP Candelario from the 15-day DL. Signed LHP

ATLANTA BRAVES

Placed Tynone Brooks to director of baseball operations, and moved to director of player development. J. J. B. Rodriguez to director of player development. J. J. B. Rodriguez to director of player development. J. J. B. Rodriguez to director of player development.

CINCINNATI REDS

Called up LHP Brandon Heston from the 15-day DL. Signed LHP Brandon Heston from the 15-day DL. Signed LHP Brandon Heston from the 15-day DL.

HOUSTON ASTROS

Called up RHP Chad Cordero from the 15-day DL. Signed RHP Chad Cordero from the 15-day DL. Signed RHP Chad Cordero from the 15-day DL.

NEW YORK METS

Recalled 3B David Wright from the 15-day DL. Signed 3B David Wright from the 15-day DL. Signed 3B David Wright from the 15-day DL.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Placed RHP Jason Motte on the bereavement list. Recalled RHP Jason Motte from the 15-day DL. Signed RHP Jason Motte from the 15-day DL.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

Placed RHP Ryan Howard on the bereavement list. Recalled RHP Ryan Howard from the 15-day DL. Signed RHP Ryan Howard from the 15-day DL.

GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS

Traded G Nick Van Elst to Portland for F Dale Davis and G Dan Dickau.

LOS ANGELES LAKERS

Signed C Vlade Divac to a two-year contract. Signed G Keith Benson to a two-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

Traded C Eric Snider to Cleveland for G Kevin O'Leary and G Keith Benson.

SAN ANTONIO SPURS

Signed C Greg Oden to a two-year contract.

AMERICAN BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

Granted an expansion franchise to Greenville, Miss., for the 2004-2005 season.

MISSISSIPPI

Named Andy Stoglin coach-general manager.

FOOTBALL

CINCINNATI BENGALS

Agreed to terms with 25-year-old QB Carson Palmer to a three-year contract.

CLEVELAND BROWNS

Fired Todd Stewert, executive director of communications and media relations. Signed Ed James to a two-year contract.

FLORIDA PANTHERS

Agreed to terms with DT Chris- tian Ferrara to a three-year contract.

TAMPA BAY BUCCINERS

Signed WR Bill Schroeder.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

BOSTON BRUINS: Signed LW Sergei Samarin to a one-year contract.

CLEVELAND FLAMES

Signed F Marcus Nil- lund to a one-year contract.

EDMONTON OILERS

Signed F Brock Ra- darski to a three-year contract.

FLORIDA PANTHERS

Signed F Scott Laughton to a three-year contract.

MINNESOTA WILD

Signed D Alex Iafallo to a one-year contract.

NEW YORK RANGERS

Agreed to terms with LW Scott Niedermayer to a three-year contract.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS

Named Mike Smith- am amateur scout.

ST. LOUIS BLUES

Named Randy Car- lyle coach of Manitoba of the AHL.

NASCAR

Signed Jeff Halpern to a one-year contract.

MOTORSPORTS

At the Indianapolis 500

Indians

Surface: Hard-Outdoor

First Round

32-32-64-68

32-32-64-68

32-32-64-68

32-32-64-68

32-32-64-68

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32-32-64-68

32-32-64-68

Indians extend home-run binge vs. Angels

Hafner belts three of hard-hitting Cleveland's six longballs in 14-5 rout

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Travis Hafner hated to leave Anaheim so much, he was the last guy out of the shower in the Cleveland Indians' clubhouse.

Hafner hit three homers to match a major league record with five in two games, leading the Indians to a 14-5 rout of the Anaheim Angels on Tuesday.

"Hitting three home runs is pretty special because it doesn't happen very often — especially to me," said Hafner, who had a three-homer game in Double-A ball and another in college. "I guess I can enjoy this one on the plane ride."

Hafner, who went deep in the third, fifth and ninth, was the second player to hit three home runs Tuesday, joining St. Louis slugger Albert Pujols.

He had two homers and five RBIs in Monday night's 8-5 victory — including a go-ahead, three-run shot in the 10th against Troy Percival.

"This is just a place that I'm really comfortable playing in and it's got a good backdrop," Hafner said. "I see the ball pretty good here and I was able to put some good swings on the ball."

Hafner's six RBIs gave him 11 in the two-game series, tying Earl Averill's franchise record for a two-game span. Averill did it in a doubleheader against the Washington Senators on Sept. 17, 1930.

The last time two major league players hit three home runs on the same day was Aug. 10, 2002, against the Elias Sagers Bureau.



Victor Martinez, left, congratulates Cleveland Indians teammate Travis Hafner on his fifth-inning home run against the Anaheim Angels on Tuesday in Anaheim, Calif. Hafner hit three homers for 6 RBIs as the Indians defeated the Angels 14-5. Hafner has driven in 11 runs in the past two games.

That day, Sammy Sosa connected three times for the Chicago Cubs at Coors Field, and Philadelphia's Mike Lieberthal did it in Los Angeles.

Twenty-six players have hit five homers in a two-game span. The last Cleveland player to do it

was Manny Ramirez, on Sept. 15-16, 1998.

It was the second three-homer game by an Indians player this season. Victor Martinez did it Friday at Seattle, when Cleveland tied a franchise mark with eight home runs.

Cleveland hit six Tuesday against the Angels, including solo shots by John McDonald and Coco Crisp and a three-run drive by Martinez in the eighth. The Indians have homered in a season-high eight straight games and have hit 23 during this stretch.

Hafner raised his home run total this season to 17, three more than he hit as a rookie last year. His two drives off Jarrod Washburn (10-5) and a solo shot in the ninth against Francisco Rodriguez made him the seventh player to hit three homers in a game this season.

"I don't think Travis is a streak hitter," McDonald said.

"I've been watching his at-bats all year, so I've seen his patience at the plate, the pitches he swings at and the pitches he doesn't swing at."

"He's hit a lot of balls hard and made a lot of solid outs, so he's been a very consistent hitter all year. He's definitely a big lift in the middle of our lineup, and he lifts the guys around him."

All-Star Jake Westbrook (7-5) won for the first time in seven starts since June 14, when he beat Baltimore 14-0 with a four-hitter. The right-hander was charged with five runs and 10 hits in seven-plus innings after being staked to a 10-1 lead through six.

"It helps a lot because it allows you to go after guys and be aggressive, which is the way I like to pitch, anyway," Westbrook said.

Westburn allowed 10 runs — nine earned — and a career-worst 13 hits in 5 1/3 innings. It was the second time in four starts that the left-hander gave up four home runs. The Oakland Athletics tied it against him July 1 in a 7-3 victory — also a day game.

"You shake your head, try to laugh it off and worry about the next one," Washburn said. "It's not hard to forget about something like this."

A's break through after Harden, Bush trade zeros

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Dave Bush and Rich Harden seemed capable of trading scoreless innings forever.

But Damian Miller is a decade older and a good bit wiser than both young starting pitchers, and he doesn't have that kind of time.

Miller broke up Bush's no-hit bid in the eighth, then won the game with a bases-loaded single in the 14th inning of the Oakland Athletics' 1-0 victory over the Toronto Blue Jays on Tuesday.

Bush and Harden allowed one hit apiece through eight innings, but the game stretched on long after the duel between promising young right-handers ended in a draw. Instead, it was decided by Harden's 34-year-old catcher, who punctuated his re-surgent season with the two biggest hits of a game dominated by pitching.

"At [that] point in the game, you just want to get on base," Miller said of his eighth-inning single. "I felt I had a pretty good block blocking the plate, a couple of hits. I'm tired. I'm really tired, now that I'm thinking about it, and I have to play tomorrow."

When Miller finally got back to his locker, there were two beers waiting on his chair — courtesy of manager Ken Macha,



Toronto's David Bush took a no-hit into the eighth inning, when he gave up a single to Damian Miller. The Athletics won 1-0.

after Miller jokingly asked for some refreshment during the game.

"I got service from the manager today," he said. "That doesn't happen often." Jermaine Dye led off the 14th with a single off Justin Speier (2-6), Toronto's sixth pitcher. After a sacrifice bunt and two walks, Miller singled to nearly tie the same spot as his eighth-inning single to left.

It was Oakland's longest 1-0 game since 1986, but the extra innings weren't nearly as impressive as the first eight.

Bush was spectacular in his third major

league start, allowing one hit and three walks while striking out six. The 24-year-old Pittsburgh native was recalled from Triple-A Syracuse on July 2 to take the rotation spot of struggling Pat Hentgen.

"For the most part, I was throwing strikes to both sides of the plate," Bush said. "In the fourth or fifth inning, I started thinking about [a no-hitter]. I knew what was going on."

But Harden matched Bush, yielding two hits and three walks while striking out eight in 8 1/3 innings — the longest start of his career.

"I was in a pretty good rhythm," Harden said. "I was able to make my pitches. It's good to fare well against those guys."

Just how even was it? After eight innings, both pitchers had faced 28 hitters and thrown 107 pitches.

Both teams threatened in the 12th, but Justin Lehr escaped a bases-loaded jam with one out in the 12th, and the A's left Dye stranded on third.

Lehr (1-1) retired the side in order in the 13th and 14th, earning his first major league win as the teams split a two-game series.

"You could tell right away it was going to be one of those games that would be decided by a walk, an error or a seeing-eye hit," Toronto manager Carlos Tosca said.

"There just wasn't a lot of offense today, and that's as good a pitching performance as you want to see."

Both starters got exceptional support on

defense, with A's shortstop Bobby Crosby making three impressive plays. Chris Gomez and Eric Hinske were equally superb for Toronto.

Bush struck out four straight batters in the seventh, which ended on Orlando Hernandez's diving grab of Erubiel Durazo's drive to second base. But Miller singled cleanly to left on Bush's 102nd pitch.

In other AL games on Tuesday:

Red Sox 9, Mariners 7: Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz hit consecutive homers to key Boston's eighth-run fourth inning in Seattle.

Derek Lowe (8-9) gave up four runs and nine hits in five innings. Keith Foulke, who pitched two innings the previous night, got three outs for his 15th save in 20 chances.

Seattle had a season-high 18 hits but tied a club record with 16 left on base.

Twins 5, Tigers 4 (10): Jacques Jones homered and drove in the go-ahead run with a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning.

Justin Morneau also homered for the Twins, who swept the two-game series in Detroit after losing six of their previous seven games.

Rangers 6, White Sox 4: Rod Barajas broke a tie with a two-run double, and Garb Mathews Jr. homered in the eighth inning at Ameriquest Field in Arlington to give Texas its fifth win in six games.

Chicago got home runs from Ron Konerko, Jose Valentin and Carlos Lee but dropped out of first place in the AL Central, a half-game behind Minnesota.

AL Roundup

Phillies regain East lead after edging Braves

Two unearned runs in 8th set up Philly's 30th comeback win

BY PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — One night after falling out of first place in the NL East, the Philadelphia Phillies rallied for their 30th come-from-behind win of the season, a 4-3 victory over the Atlanta Braves in 10 innings Tuesday night.

The Phillies scored two unearned runs in the eighth to tie it 3-3, then went ahead on Bobby Abreu's RBI single in the 10th.

Billy Wagner escaped a one-out, bases-loaded jam in the bottom half, retiring Marcus Giles and J.D. Drew to end it.

"We had to win this game," Wagner said. "It was a must win."

With a 4-2 loss on Monday, Philadelphia fell out of the division lead for the first time since June 27. The Braves, winners of 12 straight division titles, were poised to stretch their lead to two games behind another strong outing from Jaret Wright.

But the Phillies came from behind again — they lead the NL in that category — and head home tied for first lead.

"This was a game we definitely needed," Phillies manager Larry Bowa said. "It was a two-game swing."



Bobby Abreu's run-scoring single in the 10th inning keyed Philadelphia's 4-3 victory at Atlanta on Monday night that put the Phillies back into a first-place tie in the NL East.

In the 10th, Jimmy Rollins led off with a single against Antonio Alfonseca (5-4) and stole second. Chase Utley put down a bunt in front of the plate, but catcher Eddie Perez bobbed the ball to leave runners at first and third.

Sam McConnell took over for Alfonseca, but Abreu managed a single up the middle to put Philadelphia ahead. Shortstop Rafael Furcal, playing in to try to cut off a run at the plate, dove for the ball but only managed to deflect it just beyond the infield dirt.

"We had to win this game," Abreu said. "This is a team that never gives up. It has a lot of confidence."

In the bottom half, Wagner allowed singles to Andrew Jones and Eli Marrero. Mark DeRosa bunted them over and Wag-

ner walked Furcal intentionally to load the bases. Wagner fell behind 3-1 in the count to Giles, then got a broken-bat grounder to third, forcing Jones at the plate.

Wagner completely shattered Drew's bat on a soft liner to first base, ending the game and giving the Phillies closer his 15th save of the season.

"I'd like to get out 1-2-3 every time," Wagner said. "But they did a good job of getting one back. They put me in a situation where I had to make pitches. It was fun."

Tim Worrell (3-3) earned the win with a scoreless ninth.

Giles hit a two-run homer in the first inning, and Jones added a solo shot in the seventh that pushed the Braves to a 3-1 lead.

Wright went seven innings, allowing four hits and a run, but could only watch as the Phillies bounced back in the eighth.

Furcal bobbled a grounder trying to turn a double play and didn't get anyone out. Philadelphia took advantage, tying the game on Jim Thome's sacrifice fly and David Bell's two-out, run-scoring single.

Wright hasn't lost since May 22, going 5-0 with six no-decisions during that span. But his record (7-5) would be much better if the bullpen had done a better job of protecting leads.

"After something like that, you've got to forget about it as quickly as you can," Wright said. "We have been playing good baseball. We had them on their heels. We just couldn't finish on the right side."

Drew hit a first-inning double, extending his career-best hitting streak to 17 games.

Another late rally extends L.A.'s win streak to eight

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Trailing by three runs entering the seventh inning, Adrian Beltre and the Los Angeles Dodgers were patiently waiting for the inevitable rally.

Beltre then stepped out of the dugout, settled into his stance and did the honors himself Tuesday night.

Beltre's two-run shot in the seventh sparked the Dodgers' third straight comeback victory on the road, 7-5 over the slumping Houston Astros.

"We believe we can come back and win any game the way we are swinging the bats," said Beltre, who hit his career-high 25th homer. "You get in a groove and feel confident that you can do a lot of damage."

The Dodgers have won 14 of 15 and eight consecutive road games, something they haven't done since June 1982. Los Angeles also moved a season-high 16 games above .500.

Jeff Weaver (7-9) gave up four runs on seven hits in six innings, but left trailing 4-1 when the Dodgers began to rally for their eighth consecutive victory.

Eric Gagne got four outs, including three strikeouts to end the game, for his 27th save in 28 chances.

It's been a fantastic road trip. This is a great way to start the second half. It's a tremendous momentum builder," Dodgers manager Jim Tracy said. "We have created a mind-set where we don't feel like anything is insurmountable."

Los Angeles took advantage of another Houston meltdown in the



Adrian Beltre hits a two-run homer in the seventh inning on Tuesday to lead Los Angeles' sixth straight comeback victory on the road. The Dodgers have won eight straight and 14 of 15.

late innings.

Jason Grabowski led off the seventh with a pinch-hit single, and Pete Munro hit Dave Roberts with a pitch. David Westhead (1-2) came in and got Cesar Izturis to line out to shortstop, but Adam Everett made a throwing error to advance the runners.

Paul Lo Duca singled them in on the next at-bat and Beltre followed with homer on the first pitch to give the Dodgers a 4-1 lead.

Los Angeles added two more runs in the eighth, on Beltre's RBI single and Milton Bradley's fielder's choice.

"I stunk. We've got a 4-1 lead and I just don't make the pitches," Westhead said. "I might as well be pitching underhanded, like in softball. I don't want to use the word 'frustrating' because

that's too easy. Embarrassing is the right word."

Morgan Ensberg hit a solo homer in the eighth for Houston, which has lost four of five since Phil Garner replaced Jimmy Williams as manager during the All-Star break.

The Astros are a season-high 14 games behind NL Central-leading St. Louis and one more loss from dropping into last place with Pittsburgh.

Houston's discouraging start after the break has clearly befuddled its veteran clubhouse. Hardly anyone stuck around to talk with reporters after this loss.

"Black crowd tonight, huh?" Garner said.

Said Ensberg: "I don't know what to think. I don't know if we're snakebit. I don't know if it's bad luck. It's the same frustrating things that have been going on the last couple months."

In other NL games on Tuesday:

Pirates 2, Expos 1: Rookie Sean Burnett (4-2) limited Montreal to one run in seven innings to beat the Expos for the second straight time and Rob Mackowiak hit a two-run homer.

The Pirates won their 11th in 12 home games, but dropped the season series to the Expos for a third consecutive season.

Marlins 9, Mets 7: Miguel Cabrera homered and drove in three runs, and Florida won New York despite blowing a six-run lead.

Mike Piazza sprained his left wrist when Juan Pierre ran into his arm as he reached for a wide throw at first base in the second inning. X-rays were negative and he was to be re-evaluated.

Giants 3, Diamondbacks 1: In Phoenix, Jerome Williams (9-6)

outpitched Randy Johnson (10-8), allowing four hits over seven-plus innings.

Barry Bonds returned to the lineup and was 1-for-4 with a double and an RBI for the Giants, who won for the seventh time in nine games.

The Diamondbacks are winless since the All-Star break and 2-14 under manager Al Pedrique. Arizona has lost 27 of 32.

Johnson (10-8) allowed two earned runs over seven innings with a walk and six strikeouts.

Padres 9, Rockies 7: Ryan Klesko homered and drove in three runs at Denver, Khalil

Greenie had a homer and two RBIs, and Adam Eaton (5-8) avoided becoming the first pitcher since 1976 to lose to an opponent four times in a season.

In Wednesday's early NL game:

Cubs 5, Reds 4: Sammy Sosa hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh inning following a rain delay at Wrigley Field to help Chicago overcome a two-run deficit and stop a three-game losing streak.

Sosa hit his 18th homer of the year off Todd Van Poppel (3-4) as Chicago won New York only the fourth time in 13 games.

Derrek Lee and Moises Alou hit two-run homers for Chicago.

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Selig: NL could be awarded back-to-back All-Star Games

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Baseball might abandon its long-standing policy of alternating All-Star sites between National League and American League cities and award the 2007 game to another NL city, Commissioner Bud Selig said Tuesday.

Minutes after officially announcing Pittsburgh would host its second All-Star Game in 12 years in 2006, Selig said he expects to reveal the 2007, 2008 and 2009 sites later this summer.

With San Francisco, Arizona, Cincinnati, Philadelphia and San Diego all playing in new or relatively new ballparks and St. Louis to follow in 2006, one NL city would have to wait until 2018 for an All-Star Game should baseball stay with its traditional but no-longer mandatory rotation.

By contrast, only the refurbished Anaheim Angels ballpark and Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg won't have been All-Star sites among the newer AL parks,



Briefs

once Detroit stages the 2005 game.

Phoenix and San Francisco also wanted the 2006 game, which was awarded to Pittsburgh partly to pump up the Pirates' slumping attendance.

Padres lift Bush's suspension

SAN DIEGO — The Padres lifted the suspension of overall No. 1 draft pick Matt Bush, who was arrested last month and accused of assaulting a bouncer removing him from a bar.

Padres General Manager Kevin Towers on Wednesday did not say why the team ended the suspension of the 18-year-old shortstop.

Bush agreed to a \$3.15 million signing bonus June 7 and was assigned to the Padres' rookie-level affiliate in Peoria, Ariz.

He was suspended June 21, a day after his confrontation at the

bar, which is across the street from the Peoria Sports Complex.

Red Sox place Reese on DL

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox placed infielder Doleg Reese on the 15-day disabled list and called up third baseman Kevin Youkilis from Triple-A Pawtucket on Wednesday.

Reese strained a rib-cage muscle during batting practice several days ago. He played Monday night against Seattle but left in the third inning after experiencing pain in his right side.

Also on Wednesday, the Red Sox obtained veteran infielder Ricky Gutierrez from the Chicago Cubs for a player to be named or cash.

Monroe placed on injured list

DETROIT — The Detroit Tigers placed outfielder Craig Monroe on the 15-day disabled list Wednesday because of a left hamstring strain.

Monroe is hitting .278 with four home runs and 34 RBIs in 77 games.

Season-ending knee injury makes minor leaguer's slam not so grand

BY BEN WALKER

The Associated Press

Tagg Bozied could hardly wait to get home. Rounding the bases, he saw his Triple-A Portland teammates gathering, waiting to celebrate his game-winning grand slam in the bottom of the ninth.

"It was probably the coolest moment I've had on a baseball field," the San Diego Padres' prospect said.

Then suddenly, injury. Bozied, known as Bozied jumping for joy at the plate, just like the big leaguers do, he felt his left knee give way Monday night. He blacked out before landing and when he came to, there was no doubt: It was done for the year.

"It was real scary. I saw my kneecap pushed up into my quadriceps. I thought my career was over," Bozied said Tuesday in a telephone interview from Oregon.

"To go from hitting a walkoff home run to being wheeled off the field in an ambulance, it's unbelievable," he said. "Guys were hitting me on the helmet, kicking me, congratulating me, and I was down in the dogpile. Then one of them saw the look in my eyes and realized I wasn't kidding, that it was serious."

Talk about adding injury to exist. Bozied ruptured a tendon upon takeoff after the 8.5 Pacific Coast League win over Tacoma. He was taken to San Diego later Tuesday and gave an MRI on Wednesday.

Surgery is likely this week and he'll be sidelined for six months. Doctors told him he's expected to be OK for spring training.

Brain injuries during celebrations are rare, yet not unique. Kicker Bill Gramatica tore a knee ligament while jumping after a 42-yard field goal for the Arizona Cardinals late in the 2001 season, and was lost for the year. Washington quarterback Gus Fretz sprained his neck while celebrating a touchdown by headbutting a padded concrete wall in 1997.

Minnesota infielder Denny Hocking injured his hand when a teammate stepped on it during a final-out pileup in the first round of the 2002 play-

offs, and was out for the ALCS.

"It's a tragic thing for Tagg," said his manager, Craig Colbert. "It's something you see every day — a winning home run, the fans are waiting for him, a guy jumps up and hits home plate."

"But not this time," the former San Francisco catcher said. "It is something that I wish I'd never been a part of."

A third-round pick by the Padres in the June 2002 draft, Bozied was enjoying his best year as a pro despite missing six weeks earlier this season because of a hamstring injury.

The first baseman hit .315 with 16 home runs and 58 RBIs in 57 games for the Beavers. In 2002, he led all Padres minor leaguers with 24 homers while splitting the season at Class A and Double-A.

Bozied, who turns 25 on Saturday, had been honored before the game as the PCL's Batter of the Week.

Popular with the home crowds, the Beavers had scheduled a Tagg Bozied bobblehead doll fight for Aug. 21.

Now, "Get Well" banners will be put up at PGE Park fans to sign.

Bozied's slam came after an intentional walk with one out loaded the bases. He launched a shot to left-center field and tried to keep his emotions in check as he headed toward home.

"I was keeping it in. I saw the guys running in from the bullpen, everyone was there at the plate. I was saying it," he said.

Instead, he said, "I felt like my leg got something. That was no pain. I couldn't feel anything. That's the last thing I remember. The next thing I knew, I was lying on the ground and the guys were on top of me."

The crowd of 2,982 that had been cheering wildly after the Beavers' sixth straight win went silent, as did the music playing in the stadium and his system. An ambulance took Bozied to a hospital.

Despite what happened, Bozied said he wasn't being too harsh on himself.

"I mean, it's not like I was doing anything crazy or dangerous. You just can't explain things like this," he said. "But I'll tell you one thing: If I ever get lucky enough to hit another game-winning home run, I am definitely not jumping on home plate."

Source: R. Wallace returning to Pistons

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Rasheed Wallace helped transform the Detroit Pistons from contenders to NBA champions last month. Now, he's coming back for more.

The unrestricted free-agent forward has agreed to a five-year contract worth \$57 million, two sources told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

One of the league sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, expected Wallace to sign the deal on Thursday.

Wallace is to meet with reporters at a news conference Friday morning at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

Wallace, who made \$17 million last season, was acquired in a three-team deal Feb. 19 to put the Pistons over the top. And he did.

They were a good team without Wallace, ranking among the top teams in the Eastern Conference with a 34-22 record. They were 20-6 in the regular season and 16-7 in the playoffs after adding him.

The Pistons beat the Los Angeles Lakers in five games for their third title, and first since 1990.

Wallace's statistics were not always impressive — he averaged 13 points, 7.8 rebounds and two blocks in the playoffs — but his impact almost always was.

6-foot-11, 220-pounder made a stingy defense one of the best in league history and an average offense better.

Wallace averaged 16 points, 6.8 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 1.8 blocks last season, his ninth in the NBA.

The Philadelphia native spent two years in North Carolina before being taken by Washington with the fourth overall pick in the 1995 NBA Draft.

Wallace was traded to Portland following his rookie year and spent the next seven-plus seasons with the Trail Blazers. With an expiring contract, they traded Wallace to Atlanta, where he stayed for one game before he was traded to Detroit just before the trading deadline.

Wallace also kept his cool when he arrived in his new team.

He was called for just two technicals in the postseason, a total that may have shocked some who followed his career in Portland. Wallace broke a 10-year NBA record with 41 technical fouls during the 2000-01 season, and was once suspended for seven games for threatening an official after a game.

O'Neal guarantees Miami title

MIAMI — Shaquille O'Neal weighs 340 pounds, and he's hungry.

He wants to show the NBA that the Los Angeles Lakers kept the wrong All-Star. He plans to do it by leading the Miami Heat to a championship.

O'Neal made a grand entrance Tuesday at a rally welcoming him



The Associated Press is reporting Rasheed Wallace has agreed to a five-year, \$57 million deal to return to the Detroit Pistons.

to Miami. He arrived in a semi-tractor trailer with the words "Diesel Power" on the side, emerged from the cab firing a plastic water cannon at the crowd of several thousand, then followed a red carpet up the steps to the Heat's arena.

Once at the top, he pledged that an even bigger celebration is in the future.

"I'm going to bring a championship to Miami," O'Neal told the fans. "I promise."

The rally came six days after the Heat acquired the 11-time All-Star in a trade that sent three starters to Los Angeles.

Golden State swaps Van Exel for Davis, Dickau

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Golden State Warriors traded point guard Nick Van Exel to the Portland Trail Blazers on Tuesday for forward Dale Davis and guard Dan Dickau.

Van Exel was injured for much of his only season with the Warriors, who acquired him from Dallas last summer in a trade involving Antawn Jamison. He averaged 12.6 points while playing just 39 games, leaving the team for good shortly after the All-Star break with a knee injury.

Portland will be the fifth NBA team for Van Exel, whose future with Golden State probably ended when the Warriors signed point guard Derek Fisher to a six-year, \$37 million contract last week.

The Warriors also have Speedy Claxton under contract for next season.

Walker hired by Hornets

NEW ORLEANS — Former NBA player and coach Darrell Walker was hired Wednesday as an assistant to New Orleans Hornets coach Byron Scott. Walker played 10 years in the NBA and had short stints as head coach of the Toronto Raptors and Washington Wizards.

Chap-robbed Titans release RB George

Stripes and wire reports

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Eddie George's career with the Tennessee Titans is over.

The team granted George's request and released the Titans' career rushing leader on Wednesday, George's agent, Lamont Smith, told The Associated Press. The Titans called a news conference for Wednesday.

The eight-year veteran, who will turn 31 in September, asked to be released Monday after rejecting the Titans' last offer to reduce his pay from \$4.25 million to approximately \$1.5 million for the 2004 season.

He said the offer hasn't changed much since the initial proposal in March.

George has never missed a start in his career, but the Titans offense has changed and now emphasizes the passing of Steve McNair, the NFL's co-MVP in 2003.

George is only the second NFL running back to rush for 10,000 yards while never missing a start, joining Jim Brown. Only Walter Payton (10) has been in more consecutive regular-season games than George's 128.

Davies takes first-round lead in \$2.5 million Evian Masters

EVIAN, France — British-veteran Laura Davies made an eagle and seven birdies and shot

Sports briefs

8-under-par 64 on Wednesday to take the first-round lead of the \$2.57 million Evian Masters.

World No. 1 Annika Sorenstam shot 66 and was in second place with Lynette Brooky and Mara Prieto.

U.S. Women's Open winner Meg Mallon and 14-year-old Michelle Wie carded 71s, finishing the opening round tied for 25th.

NHL owners present economic concepts during labor talks

NEW YORK — The NHL and the players' association had their longest negotiating session in nine months on Wednesday, and the league presented six concepts for a new economic system.

Little progress was made on a new deal, but the representatives met for four hours in the league's Manhattan office to try to come up with a plan that would prevent a work stoppage next season. It was the fourth meeting since negotiations began last October.

Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer, said talks were substantive and that there was a detailed discussion on at least some of the problems. He said the union negotiators requested more information that the league



Michelle Wie, derailed by a double-bogey on the 12th hole Wednesday, shot 1-under 71 and trails the leader by seven shots.

will provide before the parties meet again Aug. 4.

Four from Pacific picked for All-Army softball camp

Six players from overseas teams have been selected to the All-Army women's softball tryout camp scheduled for Aug. 18-Sept. 12 at Fort Ord/Joint Base, Pa., Army sports officials said Wednesday.

Four are stationed in the Pacific, including Renetta Baker and Christy Maxwell of Camp Casey, South Korea; Jennifer McAfee of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; and Anjanee Golderhand of Fort Station, Okinawa.

Selected players will represent the Army in the All-Armed Forces championship, scheduled for Sept. 13-18 at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

NCAA council seeks recruiting alterations

The Associated Press

Under new rules designed to take the "celebrity" out of the recruiting race, colleges will no longer be able to put recruits on private jets, house them in resort hotels or feed them extravagant meals.



The NCAA Management Council concluded a two-day meeting in Baltimore on Tuesday and will forward the recommendations to the organization's board of directors for emergency approval Aug. 5.

The council also agreed to advance a package of proposals from the National Association of Basketball Coaches that focus on recruiting, retaining and graduating Division I players.

The package includes granting players five years of eligibility, allowing coaches to talk with players outside the traditional player-coach environment and hold tryouts to evaluate prospects.

The package will be examined by member schools, with an initial vote expected in January 2005 and a final vote in April.

The recruiting recommendations call for colleges and universities to use commercial airlines and coach airlines to fly athletes to campus, lodge them in "standard" accommodations and serve them reasonable meals.

"It's intended to do away with the celebrity, the sense of entitlement, for a prospect," said David Berst, NCAA vice president and

chair of the recruiting task force.

The new rules, which would be in place for the upcoming academic year, also ban schools from giving recruits rides in vehicles not used for other prospective students. Schools would also be prevented from handing out personalized jerseys or using audio/video scoreboard presentations featuring the player.

Oscar Robertson to serve as Cincinnati's interim coach

CINCINNATI — Oscar Robertson, Cincinnati's greatest basketball player, will serve as the Bengals' interim head coach until Bob Higgins returns from suspension on Aug. 27.

The Hall of Famer replaces Dan Fouts, who is in Cincinnati on Tuesday to become an assistant coach at Ohio State.

Athletic director Bob Goins said Robertson has agreed to provide one-on-one coaching to players on a regular basis, as well as provide counseling on their academic responsibilities.

Gators suspend two football players for season opener

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida suspended linebacker Channing Crowder and safety Jarvis Herrell for the season opener. Both were arrested for scuffling with police outside a local nightclub earlier this summer, the school said Tuesday.

Earlier this season at home against Middle Tennessee on Sept. 4,

Stars: Timing, performance factors for standout Olympians

STARS, FROM BACK PAGE

Stacy Dragila in track and field, or Jenny Thompson in swimming?

Name game

"There's no telling who'll be the star," said Detroit-based agent Gary Goldberg, whose two major clients happen to be two of the most enduring Olympic celebrities — Mary Lou Retton and Michelle Kwan. So what makes a star? Kwan stand out from the plentiful collection of U.S. medalists?

"Obviously, the accomplishment plays a large part," Goldberg said. "And if they're well-grounded, seen as regular people, don't take what they've done too seriously and don't let the whole thing envelope them, or let the celebrity chance take it's not just being a gold medalist that catches the public's fancy."

And, by extension, the marketeer's fancy.

Generally, sports marketing experts agree, the predictors of long-term Olympic fame are performance; having a story (in some cases, a gimmick — what if former Texas triple jumper Chris Hercules had made the U.S. team and won gold in Greece?); timing; participation in the higher-visibility sports such as gymnastics, swimming or track, and staying on stage via multiple events or more than one Olympic cycle.

Athens possibilities, then: Kuzets and Patterson combine back-from-devastating-injury-to-championship-form tales with the built-in affection NBC has for gymnastics — particularly women's gymnastics.

Having paid \$793 million for the rights to televise 1,210 hours of the Games (both on network and cable partnership), compared to 441 hours in 2000), NBC's power to shape Olympic headlines has almost tripled just since Sydney. And the U.S. women's gymnastics team appears poised to take advantage of that, going to Greece as the reigning world champions.

Besides Phelps, swimming will present Coughlin, potentially a triple gold medalist and well-spoken Cal-Berkeley graduate who missed last year's world championships because of a frightening, undiagnosed fever.

And there is Thompson, in her fourth Olympics at 31, on sabbatical from medical school, recovering emotionally from her mother's death from cancer in February, already a winner of more gold medals (eight) than any U.S. woman but all of them in relays. She still seeks an individual Olympic victory.

Dragila represents women of strength and experience in the pole vault, one of the more popular events in Sydney, and is caught in an extended taffy-pull for the world record with two Russians.

Green's appeal is the near-cliche swagger of being the World's Fastest Human, back from a broken leg suffered in a motorcycle accident. But his race, the 100 meters, keeps him in the spotlight barely 10 seconds, and the spreading steroid scandal in his sport, particularly among sprinters, is not helpful.

Others could flash, up close and personal, into American living rooms: softball pitcher Jennie Finch, rower Jason Reed, whose job as emergency medical technician and firefighter made him a first responder on 9/11, and Brooklyn fence Keith Smart.

The ideal candidate for special Olympic status, in the judgment of Rich Kenan, former middle distance runner and director of marketing for Boston-based Global Athletics & Marketing, Inc., "is a potential contender (who) comes through with the gold, wearing the colors of red, white and blue, performing above all expectations and, upon reaching the victory stand, is exciting and emotional."

Then again, Kwan has hit the Olympic star jackpot despite two Winter Olympics disappointments — one silver and one bronze medal.

Goldberg believes Kwan's place in the Olympic pantheon of heroes is due to Kwan's career accomplishments — five world figure-skating titles — combined with an appealing accessibility.



Alain Webb will attempt to become the first U.S. man to medal in the 1,500 meters since 1968.

"She let people know she hurt when she lost," Goldberg said. "It was real. At the end of the day, she was herself."

Personality plus

Obviously, there is no manufacturing personality, which explains the likes of Retton and wrestler Rulon Gardner, with whom Goldberg also briefly worked. "Mary Lou has this natural bubblyness and approachability," Goldberg said. "I can't tell you how many people have said to me, 'Is Mary Lou as nice as she seems?' Same thing with Michelle."

"With Rulon, he's incredibly honest, very straightforward, doesn't take his celebrity seriously."

With an established name, Gardner is one who has a head start on Athens. But, because the Olympics, unlike other major spectator sports with their long seasons, is a mini-series with a relatively tiny window of athletic exposure opening briefly every fourth year, the need to identify new stars is a major business.

Especially now, with Marion Jones, so central a character in Sydney, suddenly diminished. "If I were USA Track & Field," Goldberg said, "I would talk to Alan Webb every chance I get."

Webb's rollicking 1,500-meter victory to conclude the track trials here Sunday revived the hubbub over his news-making high school mile record of three years ago, which surpassed a hallowed 36-year-old standard set by housewife Nancy Rynn. Still, more said, "I would talk to Alan Webb every chance I get."

If he should win gold, he wouldn't be just another NFL quarterback or baseball All-Star. "Olympic athletes come up, like Sarah," Goldberg said. "She was fresh and it was a nice story. People come along; they're not in your face every day. The Olympic magic."

That magic is one reason NBC shelled out \$793 million.

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BY JOHN JEANSONNE

Newsday

Several key indicators in various just-completed Olympic trials suggest a U.S. star recession in next month's Athens Olympics. Now that Marion Jones has lost much of her golden-girl shine — going 1-for-3 in track trials events and burdened by unsettling relationships — there appear to be precious few Americans for NBC-TV and Madison Avenue to wrap their arms around.

A clear exception is 19-year-old swimmer Michael Phelps, whose pursuit of as many as eight medals will create a sort of underwater reality show in the Games, played out over several dramatic days.

Phelps' sport, his smashing athletic deeds — world records in four events — and his compelling multi-medal attempt all place him high in the pecking order for producing Olympic celebrity. Plus, the giant sports marketing firm Octagon is working hard to package Phelps as the fellow who can bring wider attention to swimming.

But it hardly is clear that Phelps, polite but not particularly spontaneous in public settings, will go beyond athletically awesome to personally embraceable in the American consciousness.

Though he obviously is worthy of being compared to Mark Spitz, Phelps' star quickly could dim should he fall short of Spitz's 1972 seven-gold-medal record.

So if not Phelps, then who? Fresh faces such as gymnasts Courtney Kupets or Carly Patterson, swimming's Natalie Coughlin, track's Alan Webb? Olympic veterans Maurice Greene or



Courtney Kupets, who finished first in the U.S. trials and has a chance of winning the all-around title in women's gymnastics, is an Olympian a year after rupturing her left Achilles' tendon.

Michael Phelps, left, has said he wants to break Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals in swimming set in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

AP

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With five homers in two games, Hafner is leading Indians' climb back to respectability

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Phillies fight back in eighth inning, leave Atlanta still clinging to share of NL East lead

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NBA source says free agent forward Rasheed Wallace will sign five-year deal to stay with champion Pistons

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Minor leaguer suffers bizarre injury after slam

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